



OCEANIA FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

**OFC**

**PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE**  
COMPETITION REGULATIONS

EDITION 2025

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## Definitions

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In these Regulations, capitalised terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context or description specifically provides otherwise:

<b>A League</b>	means the Isuzu UTE A-League Men Competition
<b>Australian Club</b>	a Participating Club that is not an OFC MA Territory Club and is invited and selected by OFC to participate in the Competition and is a member of Football Australia
<b>Accreditation</b>	official accreditation for the Competition.
<b>Approved Persons</b>	Has the meaning ascribed to it in Article 46.1
<b>Broadcast Rights</b>	the right to broadcast, cause to be broadcast, record, film, photograph, process or transmit the Competition 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.
<b>Budget</b>	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.
<b>Circuit Series Round</b>	the first stages of the Competition as set out in Article 8.4.
<b>Club Intellectual Property</b>	all intellectual property rights owned or controlled by a Participating Club, including but not limited to trademarks, trade names, logos, emblems, designs, copyrights, and any other proprietary rights associated with the Participating Club's identity and branding. This encompasses all visual, audio, and digital representations of the Participating Club, including team kits, promotional materials, and any other media or content that embodies the Participating Club's image or likeness. For the purposes of these Regulations, OFC is, with the promotion, organisation, and conduct of the Competition, granted a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use the Participating Club Intellectual Property solely in connection with the promotion, organisation, and conduct of the Competition.

<b>Commencement of the Competition</b>	the first Match of this Competition as set out in the Match Schedule circulated by OFC.
<b>Competition</b>	the OFC Professional League which includes without limitation, all Matches in each stage of the Competition as set out in the Match Schedule, all activities on the pitch (other than Matches), opening ceremonies, official activities, meetings, and events such as the Match Coordination Meeting, press conferences, and other media and marketing activities organised by OFC
<b>Competition Data</b>	any and all information related to the Competition, including but not limited to, the Match Schedule, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Club and/or participating Players, Team Officials, and/or Match Officials, 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.
<b>Control</b>	<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> <p>For the purposes of these Regulations, the ownership of, or power to exercise the voting rights conferred by, 30% or more of the nominal or voting shares of an entity (whether individually or in concert with others) shall be deemed to constitute Control.</p>
<b>Delegation Member</b>	any Player or Team Official included in the Official Team List, and any other person who is employed by and/or is permitted to travel with a Team in connection with the Competition.
<b>FFAR</b>	The FIFA Football Agents Regulations, as in force from time to time.
<b>FIFA</b>	Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
<b>First Team List</b>	The list of a Participating Club’s first team Players stipulated in Article 18.

<b>Force Majeure</b>	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.
<b>Image Rights</b>	the personal rights of a Player concerning the use of their name, likeness, image, voice, signature, and any other distinctive characteristics or personal attributes. These rights include, but are not limited to, photographs, video footage, digital representations, and any other media that capture or represent the Player's persona. For the purposes of these Regulations, OFC is granted a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use the Image Rights of the Player solely in connection with the promotion, organisation, and conduct of the Competition, the Player and/or the Participating Club. The use of Image Rights must respect the Player's privacy and personal integrity, ensuring that all representations are appropriate and do not misrepresent or exploit the Player in any manner.
<b>Injury Reserve List</b>	the list of a Participating Club's injury reserve players stipulated by Article 19.
<b>League Season</b>	the period commencing three days prior to the Commencement of the Competition until one day after the final Match of the Competition.
<b>Marketing Rights</b>	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.
<b>Match</b>	any single match played in the Competition (regardless of stage).
<b>Match Coordination Meeting</b>	the meeting held by OFC prior to the commencement of each Round of the Competition at which OFC will issue ordinary and special instructions.
<b>Match Officials</b>	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.



<b>Match Schedule</b>	the schedule of all matches in each stage of the Competition as determined and communicated by OFC via Circular.
<b>Media Rights</b>	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.
<b>OFC</b>	Oceania Football Confederation Incorporated
<b>OFC Competitions</b>	the OFC Competitions Department.
<b>OFC MA Territory Club</b>	a club from an OFC Ordinary Member Association as defined in the OFC Statutes, accepted for entry into the Competition by OFC Executive Committee.
<b>Officer</b>	any natural or legal person involved in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of the club, either directly or indirectly.
<b>Official Start List</b>	as set out at Article 21.
<b>Official Team List</b>	as set out in Articles 18-20.
<b>Official Terms</b>	as set out and defined in Article 1.8.
<b>Ordinary Member Association</b>	An OFC Ordinary Member Association as defined in the OFC Statutes
<b>Owner</b>	any natural or legal person who holds or deals in the securities or shares that allows such person to exercise Significant Influence in the Participating Club.
<b>Participating Clubs</b>	collectively the OFC MA Territory Clubs and Australian Club accepted for entry into the Competition by OFC Executive Committee.



<b>Play Off Groups</b>	the second stage of the Competition, as set out in Article 8.5
<b>Player</b>	a person who is eligible to be selected for and play in a Match pursuant to these Regulations.
<b>Protest</b>	an objection related to an event and/or matter that has a direct effect on a Match as defined under Article 47.
<b>Round</b>	each Round of the OFC Professional League Competition as per the released Match Schedule by OFC.
<b>Regulations</b>	this document, including all Appendices and any amendments to it notified to the Participating Clubs.
<b>Significant Influence</b>	the ability to influence but not control financial and operating policy decision making of a Participating Club. 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.
<b>Standard Professional Contract</b>	the standard-form contract for the employment of a professional footballer in accordance with the guidelines as set out at Article 25 of these Regulations.
<b>Team</b>	the final registered Players and Team Officials of a Participating Club for each Match of the relevant stage of the Competition.
<b>Team Official</b>	Members of a Participating Club who are not Players, as set out in Article 20.
<b>OFC Professional League Health Protocol</b>	the OFC Professional League Health Protocol (OFC PL HP) health protocols or requirements of any local or national authorities for territories in which Matches will be staged and which consequently apply to for the Competition.
<b>OFC Professional League Medical Requirements</b>	the Medical Requirements (OFC PL MR) for the Competition set down by OFC.

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

- a. The singular shall include the plural and vice versa;
- b. The feminine gender shall include the masculine and vice versa;
- c. reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- d. references to the OFC shall include its successors and permitted assigns, and where the context requires, any OFC committees;
- e. references to 'these regulations' shall mean the OFC Professional League Regulations.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

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### 1. THE OFC PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE

- 1.1 The OFC Professional League takes place every year.
- 1.2 Entry to the Competition is free of charge for Participating Clubs.
- 1.3 These Regulations regulate the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the Participating Clubs 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 playing of the Competition.
- 1.4 The OFC Statutes and all OFC regulations, guidelines, circulars, directives, decisions, stipulations, protocols and requirements 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 Participating Clubs 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 Participating Clubs in the Competition shall remain with OFC.
- 1.7 On entering this Competition, the Participating Clubs guarantee to use and promote the following List of Official Terms in all official publications, promotional materials, websites, social media, and when communicating with the media and other external stakeholders, or within their territory.
- 1.8 The Official Terms for this Competition are as follows:
  - 1.8.1 OFC Professional League 2026; and
  - 1.8.2 OFC Professional League; and
  - 1.8.3 OFC Pro League.
- 1.9 Each Participating Club must oblige their Players and Team Officials to use the correct terminology as set out in these Regulations and the OFC Professional League Media and Marketing Regulations 2025.

### 2. ORGANISATION OF THE OFC PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE

- 2.1 The OFC Executive Committee has appointed OFC General Secretariat to organise the Competition. OFC Professional League Department shall manage the Competition and have the right to decide on all matters.
- 2.2 OFC shall be responsible for hosting all stages of the Competition and may, in its ultimate discretion, appoint a Local Organising Committee (LOC) to assist with the management of a Match/es and/or Stage/s in the Match Schedule. An LOC may include Officials of a Participating Club, in which case such Officials must offer such reasonable assistance to the OFC as is requested of them. All OFC decisions in this respect are final and binding.

- 2.3 OFC Professional League Department undertakes to observe these Regulations.
- 2.4 OFC Professional League Department shall assign a dedicated individual for the duration of the Competition, who shall be responsible for assisting in the coordination of local transportation, baggage collection and any other needs as they arise for:
  - 2.4.1 Each of the Participating Clubs, in coordination with the Team Liaison Officer. The liaison must be fluent in the primary language of the country assigned, wherever possible;
  - 2.4.2 The Match Officials, including Referees, referee assessors, fitness instructors;
  - 2.4.3 OFC Executive Committee Members and authorised guests.
- 2.5 The responsibilities of the OFC Professional League Department shall include, but are not limited to:
  - 2.5.1 supervising general preparations, and the entries to the Competition;
  - 2.5.2 determining the Match Schedule;
  - 2.5.3 selecting venues for the Competition;
  - 2.5.4 reporting cases where appropriate to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee;
  - 2.5.5 dealing with cases of cancelled, unplayed or abandoned Matches;
  - 2.5.6 dealing with unforeseen events;
  - 2.5.7 staging the Competition in a professional manner overall; and
  - 2.5.8 dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body pursuant to these Regulations.
- 2.6 If OFC do not own a venue for the Competition, the realm of responsibility for a Match must be clarified by the OFC with the venue owner and clearly defined.

### 3. PARTICIPATING CLUBS

- 3.1 Only Licensed Clubs that have been accepted for participation in the Competition by the OFC Executive Committee in accordance with the OFC Club Licensing Regulations will be permitted to participate in the Competition.
- 3.2 For the 2026 Competition, the following Participating Clubs have been approved by the OFC Executive Committee and shall participated in the Competition:
  - 3.2.1 Auckland FC (NZ);
  - 3.2.2 Bula Boys (Fiji);
  - 3.2.3 Christchurch United (NZ);
  - 3.2.4 Hekari United (PNG);



- 3.2.5 Hekari United (PNG);
- 3.2.6 South Melbourne (Aus);
- 3.2.7 Tahiti United (Tahiti);
- 3.2.8 Vanuatu FC (Vanuatu).

3.3 On entering the Competition, the Participating Clubs automatically undertake and agree to:

- 3.3.1 observe these Regulations, the Laws of the Game, OFC's Statutes and regulations, guidelines, circulars, directives and decisions;
- 3.3.2 take all necessary actions to ensure that it is able to participate in the Competition;
- 3.3.3 take all necessary actions for their Players and Team Officials to understand and comply with these Regulations, all OFC Statutes, regulations, guidelines, circulars, directives, decisions, stipulations, protocols and requirements;
- 3.3.4 take all necessary steps to cooperate and assist with the enforcement of these Regulations;
- 3.3.5 accept and obey the decisions passed by OFC under the terms of these Regulations;
- 3.3.6 ensure that all Delegation Members (not only its Players) observe the principles of fair play;
- 3.3.7 make all reasonable efforts to field a competitive team in all Matches of the Competition in which their Participating Club is scheduled to take part, subject to any requirements of the OFC;
- 3.3.8 refrain from any illegal, immoral or unethical behaviour that damages, or could damage the integrity and reputation of football, the OFC or the Competition and always cooperate fully with OFC in its efforts to prevent, investigate and sanction such behaviour;
- 3.3.9 ensure that they have consent of every relevant person:
  - (a) to transfer their personal information to OFC to use for Competition purposes;
  - (b) to transfer their personal information to relevant third parties such as but not limited to; FIFA, commercial partners of the OFC or Competition, travel agents, hotels, airlines etc;
  - (c) to transfer the Competition Data to third parties; and
  - (d) to post any Competition Data, images, video, player profile information and statistics on any website, mobile app and/or any social media profiles, and for The OFC or Competition's commercial partners to do the same;
- 3.3.10 accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters related to the Competition shall be dealt with by OFC and/or OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee;

- 3.3.11 accept all the arrangements made by OFC in respect of the Competition, including but not limited to arrangements pertaining to travel, training, official activities, Matches and general logistics for participation in the Competition;
  - 3.3.12 submit to OFC all the required information and/or documentation no later than as prescribed by the relevant issued circular. Any Participating Club that fails to provide OFC with all requested information and/or documentation by a stipulated deadline shall be fined NZ\$ 2,500 by the OFC for each occasion, except in cases of Force Majeure. Where numerous pieces of required information are required by the same deadline, each piece of information that is not provided by that deadline shall constitute a separate occasion of default;
  - 3.3.13 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.
- 3.4 In addition, each Participating Club shall be responsible for:
- 3.4.1 the behaviour of their Players, Team 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;
  - 3.4.2 confirming to OFC as per the prescribed deadline communicated in the relevant Circular, all necessary details for OFC to book travel and accommodation arrangements in accordance with Article 5 (Expenses).;
  - 3.4.3 obtaining passports and visas in good time from the relevant authorities, and covering all costs involved (if necessary);
  - 3.4.4 arranging compulsory adequate health, accident and travel insurance cover for all its Delegation Members during their attendance at all stages of the Competition starting from the Commencement of the Competition till one day after the final Match of the Competition;
  - 3.4.5 attending and participating in all official activities, meetings and events such as mandatory educational workshops, team workshops, Match Coordination Meeting, press conferences, welcome function and other media and marketing activities, organised by OFC. A Participating Club that fails to attend any official activity, meeting, event and other official functions in the Competition shall be fined NZ\$ 2,500 by the OFC for each occasion; and
  - 3.4.6 Complying with and implementing (where applicable) the measures identified in the relevant OFC Professional League Tournament Healthcare Protocol (**OFC PL HP**) and in the OFC Professional League Tournament Medical Requirements (**OFC PL MR**).
- 3.5 The Participating Club may only use its name and/or logo if all the following requirements are satisfied:

- 3.5.1 the name is mentioned in the constitution or statutes of the Participating Club; and
- 3.5.2 for OFC MA Territory Clubs, it is registered at the Ordinary Member Association and for Australian Clubs, it is registered and recognised by Football Australia with regulated authority in Australia; and
- 3.5.3 the name and logo does not refer to or conflict with the name of a commercial partner connected to the Competition and complies with OFC Regulations.

#### 4. COMMITMENT TO THE COMPETITION

- 4.1 Participating Clubs shall undertake and agree to commit to:
  - 4.1.1 the Competition for the duration of each Tournament Period, and
  - 4.1.2 each Match in the Match Schedule for which it is scheduled to and qualifies to play. For the avoidance of doubt, this shall include reporting for, playing in and completing all Matches in the Match Schedule.
- 4.2 Participating Clubs agree not to withdraw from the Competition during the League season unless in the case of Force Majeure.
- 4.3 With the exception of the A-league and in accordance with Article 16.4, a Participating Club shall not engage, associate with or play in any other professional league or professional competition in conflict with the Competition for so long as it is a Participating Club.
- 4.4 Failure to comply with this Article will result in sanctions as prescribed in Article 6 of these Regulations.

#### 5. EXPENSES

- 5.1 OFC is responsible for covering the costs and arranging the travel and accommodation for 20 players and five Team Officials only for OFC MA Territory Clubs.
- 5.2 The Australian Club will wholly bear all costs related to the Competition, including all expenses in connection with its participation.
- 5.3 In relation to the Competition, OFC will be responsible for the costs of:
  - 5.3.1 Official match balls (a minimum of 48 per Participating Club);
  - 5.3.2 Trophies, awards and medals associated with participation in the Competition;



- 5.3.3 Health testing as required under the OFC PL HP of the OFC for Delegation Members;
  - 5.3.4 Production of OFC signage;
  - 5.3.5 Match Officials as per their contract terms with OFC;
- 5.4 In accordance with Article 5.1, OFC will also be responsible for the operational costs of the Competition as follows:
- 5.4.1 costs of all match venue(s) and training venue(s) two days prior to each Round of the Competition;
  - 5.4.2 costs of all official activities, such as opening and closing ceremonies and mandatory official education sessions;
  - 5.4.3 costs for international flights for OFC Member Association Clubs as booked by OFC Professional League Department;
  - 5.4.4 any return costs for ground transportation from the international airport to the accommodation of each OFC Member Association Club as required at the location of each Round of the Competition as booked by OFC Professional League Department;
  - 5.4.5 any return costs for internal transport to and from training sessions (at a maximum one per day) as booked by OFC Professional League Department during each Round of the Competition;
  - 5.4.6 any return costs to any official activity, match venue or any other venue for the purpose of mandatory education sessions;
  - 5.4.7 water (a minimum of 3 litres per Player, Team Official and Match Official per Match);
  - 5.4.8 ice (minimum of 5kg per Participating Club and Match Official, per Match);
  - 5.4.9 broadcast costs associated with the Competition;
  - 5.4.10 all costs related to all health measures required under the OFC PL MR;
  - 5.4.11 Participating Club and Match Official liaison officers;
  - 5.4.12 VIP hospitality on any Match Day, where applicable;
  - 5.4.13 Doping control; and
  - 5.4.14 any additional internal costs at the sole discretion of the OFC.
- 5.5 Participating Clubs are responsible for:
- 5.5.1 full costs incurred due to any flight changes, cancellations, name changes and excess luggage relating to flights which is no fault of OFC;
  - 5.5.2 cost of meals and subsistence for Delegation Members if not otherwise included at the accommodation;
  - 5.5.3 incidental costs and expenses incurred by its Delegation Members during the course of their stay in the host country/hotel accommodation 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;
  - 5.5.4 any costs of extending or upgrading the stay of any Delegation Member or any persons carrying out duties on its behalf;

- 5.5.5 costs for compulsory health, accident and travel insurance cover for all its Delegation Members, in accordance with Article 3.4.4;
  - 5.5.6 all costs related to testing and documentation required under the Tournament Health Protocol;
  - 5.5.7 visas and/or taxes for all Delegation Members incurred to and from any Match in the Competition;
  - 5.5.8 the costs of any kit and or other supplies required for the Competition;
  - 5.5.9 medical costs, save for costs arising directly in connection with Matches, which are by the insurance obtained by OFC in accordance with Article 50;
  - 5.5.10 miscellaneous costs, including but not limited to, team-related activities, Delegation Member costs outside of the Tournament Period, water and ice at training sessions; and
  - 5.5.11 Employee costs, including but not limited to Player and Team Official salaries, allowances and other benefits.
- 5.6 Unless otherwise agreed, OFC will retain all income derived from the commercial exploitation of the Competition, including but not limited to admission, ticket sales, radio, ground advertising rights, broadcast and media rights and sponsors' contributions.

## 6. FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITION

- 6.1 If a Participating Club fails to report for, refuses to play or continue a Match or leaves a venue prior to the completion of a Match for any reason other than Force Majeure, it recognises that damages may not be an adequate remedy for non-performance of the obligations set out herein these Regulations.
- 6.2 Should any Participating Club fail to adhere to Article 4, the OFC may, in its discretion, pursue any one or more of the following:
- 6.2.1 Injunctive or other relief;
  - 6.2.2 Disqualification from the Competition;
  - 6.2.3 Reimbursement of costs and expenses paid on behalf of the Participating Club;
  - 6.2.4 Forfeiture of any revenue or reward due as a result of a Participating Club's participation in the Competition;
  - 6.2.5 Expulsion from the Competition;
  - 6.2.6 Refer the Participating Club to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, which may impose further sanctions at its discretion, including the right to ban the Participating Club from any other OFC competition;
  - 6.2.7 Damages incurred by the OFC; and
  - 6.2.8 A fine of a value to be determined by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, not exceeding \$2,000,000 NZD.

## 7. QUALIFICATION FOR FIFA TOURNAMENTS

- 7.1 Subject to Article 7.3 below, the winner of the Competition each year will represent the OFC at the corresponding edition of the FIFA Intercontinental Cup.
- 7.2 The Competition shall constitute the OFC's premier club competition for the purpose of qualification to the FIFA Club World Cup and FIFA Intercontinental Cup.
- 7.3 Only OFC MA Territory Clubs are eligible to represent the OFC at the FIFA Club World Cup and FIFA Intercontinental Cup. In any year where an Australian Club wins the Competition, the champion for the purpose of qualification to the FIFA Club World Cup and Intercontinental Cup shall be the OFC MA Territory Club with the highest finish in that year's OFC Professional League.
- 7.4 The Participating Club that represents the OFC at the FIFA Intercontinental Cup in accordance with this Article 7 shall follow the following with regards to monies received:
  - 7.4.1 The Participating Club will retain monies up to USD \$500,000.00 received from FIFA for its preparation to participate in the FIFA Intercontinental Cup; and
  - 7.4.1 For all monies received in addition to the aforementioned money at Article 7.4.1. the Participating Club shall pay to OFC a sum equivalent of 60% of the additional monies received as a solidarity contribution to the Competition. This solidarity payment will be divided and applied as follows:
    - (A) 10% for operations of the OFC Professional League (being 6% of the additional money received by the representative Participating Club); and
    - (b) 90% to be divided equally among the other OFC MA Territory Clubs (being 7.7% of the additional money paid per recipient Participating Club).
- 7.5 The Participating Club that represents the OFC at the FIFA Club World Cup in accordance with Article 7 will pay to OFC 10% of all monies received by the Participating Club for their participation in the FIFA Club World Cup.
- 7.6 In the event the Participating Club that represents the OFC at the FIFA Club World Cup in accordance with this Article 7 is required to cover all costs related to its participation in the FIFA Club World Cup such as international airfares, accommodation and other relevant costs as prescribed by FIFA, then the Participating Club shall retain up to 30% of the total of all monies received as a result of its participation in this competition or the actual costs incurred as a result of participation, whichever is the lesser amount.
- 7.7 The following distribution will be applied for all monies received for the Participating Club's participation in the FIFA Club World Cup as a solidarity payment for the respective Clubs:
  - 7.7.1 The Participating Club that represents the OFC at the FIFA Club World Cup shall receive 18% of the total monies received by the Participating Club for the FIFA Club World Cup;
  - 7.7.2 All other Participating Clubs shall receive 6% of the total monies received by the Participating Club for the FIFA Club World Cup.



7.8 For Participating Clubs to be eligible to receive monies set out at Article 7.4 Clubs must:

- 7.8.1 Have played an entire OFC Professional League season with no withdrawals from the Competition in accordance with Article 4.2; or
- 7.8.2 Have maintained their Club Licence for the duration of the League Season.

The amount to be divided amongst the eligible Participating Clubs will be adjusted in the event a Participating Club is no longer eligible to receive the monies due to failing to meet the above criteria.

7.9 For Participating Clubs to be eligible to receive monies as set out at Articles 7.5, 7.6 and 7.7, Participating Clubs must:

- 7.9.1 Have played an entire OFC Professional League season with no withdrawals from the Competition in accordance with Article 4.2; or
- 7.9.2 Have maintained their Club Licence for the duration of the League Season; and
- 7.9.3 Have participated in all seasons of the OFC Professional League prior to the FIFA Club World Cup 2029.

The amount to be divided amongst the eligible Participating Clubs will be adjusted in the event a Participating Club is no longer eligible to receive the monies due to failing to meet the above criteria.

7.10 Subject to any and all changes as communicated by FIFA, OFC reserves the right to amend the above-mentioned FIFA Club World Cup and FIFA Intercontinental Cup money distribution for Participating Clubs.

## SECTION 2 – COMPETITION

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### 8. COMPETITION FORMAT

8.1 The eight Participating Clubs at Article 3.2 shall participate in the Competition.

8.2 OFC Professional League Department shall be responsible for the Match schedule. All decisions in respect of the Match Schedule are final and binding.

8.3 The Competition shall comprise of:

- 8.3.1 Circuit Series Round;
- 8.3.2 Play Off Groups;
- 8.3.3 Semi-Final Play Off;
- 8.3.4 Semi-Finals; and
- 8.3.5 Final.

#### 8.4 Circuit Series Round:

- 8.4.1 The first stage of the Competition.
- 8.4.2 This stage will be played in five rounds of circuit series, each consisting of eight Participating Clubs playing Matches against one another.
- 8.4.3 In total, the Circuit Series will constitute a double round robin across the whole Competition, with each Participating Club playing each other twice, so that each Participating Club will play a total of 14 Matches each in this stage.

#### 8.5 Play Off Groups

- 8.5.1 The second stage of the Competition.
- 8.5.2 The Participating Clubs will be split into two separate groups - the Leaders Group A and Challengers Group B - based on points achieved for Matches played during the Circuit Series Round, with the highest scoring Participating Clubs being ranked as follows:

Leaders Group	Challengers Group
1 <sup>ST</sup>	5 <sup>TH</sup>
2 <sup>ND</sup>	6 <sup>TH</sup>
3 <sup>RD</sup>	7 <sup>TH</sup>
4 <sup>TH</sup>	8 <sup>TH</sup>

- 8.5.3 The Play Off Groups will consist of each Participating Club playing one Match against the other Participating Clubs in its respective group (each Participating Club therefore playing 3 Matches in total in this stage). Points amassed in the Circuit Series Round will not carry over, with teams starting the Play Off Groups on zero points.
- 8.5.4 At the end of the Play Off Groups Round, the top three Participating Clubs in the Leaders Group will automatically qualify for the Semi Finals.
- 8.5.5 The fourth-placed team in the Leaders Group shall contest a single SemiFinal Play-Off Match with the first-place team in the Challengers Group to determine qualification for the Semi-Final.

#### 8.6 Circuit Series Round and Play Off Groups Format:

- 8.6.1 During the Circuit Series Round and Play Off Groups Round, three points will be available for a win, one for a draw and zero for a loss/defeat.
- 8.6.2 The ranking of each Participating Club in the Competition for the group matches in the Circuit Series Round and the Play Off Groups (respectively) shall be determined as follows, in order of priority:
  - (a) greater number of points obtained in Matches during that stage of the Competition;
  - (b) superior goal difference in Matches during that stage of the Competition;
  - (c) greater number of goals scored in Matches during that stage of the Competition.

8.6.3 If two or more Participating Clubs are equal based on the above three criteria, the rankings shall be determined as follows, in order of priority

- (a) greater number of points obtained in Matches between the two Participating Clubs during the current stage of the Competition;
- (b) superior goal difference in Matches between the two Participating Clubs during the current stage of the Competition;
- (c) greater number of goals scored in Matches between the two Participating Clubs during the current stage of the Competition;
- (d) lowest conduct score relating to the number of yellow and red cards obtained:
  - (i) yellow card: 1 point
  - (ii) indirect red card (as a result of two yellow cards): 3 points
  - (iii) direct red card: 4 points
  - (iv) yellow card and direct red card: 5 points

Only one of the above scores shall be applied to a Player in a single Match. The Participating Club with the highest number of points shall be ranked the lowest;

- (e) coin toss (or drawing of lots by OFC).

## 8.7 Semi-Final Play-Off

8.7.1 A single Match is played between the fourth-placed team in the Leaders Group and the first-placed team in the Challengers Group to determine qualification for the semi-final.

8.7.2 In the event that the scores are level at full time, the Match shall proceed to extra time, and subsequently a penalty shoot-out if necessary. The winner shall be awarded the final place in the Semi Finals.

## 8.8 Semi Finals

8.8.1 The third stage of the Competition.

8.8.2 The Semi Finals shall consist of two single elimination Matches to be played as follows:

- (a) Semi Final Match 1: Winner of Leaders Group v Winner of Semi Final Play-off.
- (b) Semi Final Match 2: Second-placed in Leaders Group v Third-placed in Leaders Group.

8.8.3 In the event that the scores are level at full time, the Semi Finals Matches shall proceed to extra time, and subsequently a penalty shoot-out if necessary.

8.8.4 The winner of each semi-final will contest the Final.



## 8.9 FINAL

- 8.9.1 The fourth and final stage of the Competition.
  - 8.9.2 A single Match played between the winning teams from the Semi Final Matches.
  - 8.9.3 In the event that the scores are level at full time, the Match shall proceed to extra time, and subsequently a penalty shoot-out if necessary.
  - 8.9.4 The winner shall be declared the OFC Professional League Champion for that iteration of the Competition.
- 8.10 If a Match played as part of the Competition is cancelled or abandoned for any reason, OFC General Secretariat will decide on the matter. All decisions made in respect of this Article are final and binding.

## 9. MATCH SCHEDULE

- 9.1 OFC Professional League Department shall be responsible for determining the Match Schedule with due regard to maximising interest in the Competition.
- 9.2 OFC will release the Match Schedule via Circular prior to the Commencement of the Competition.
- 9.3 OFC decisions in respect of the Match Schedule shall be final and binding. Any change to the Match Schedule after the Commencement of the Competition must be approved by the OFC Professional League Department.
- 9.4 An OFC Match Director shall be appointed for each Match of the Competition. The Match Director will be responsible for all aspects of the Match organisation.
- 9.5 Participating Club arrival meetings and Match Coordination Meetings shall take place prior to the commencement of each Round as directed by OFC Professional League Department and/or the OFC Match Director.
- 9.6 The OFC Match Director must complete the competitions report with a copy of the Official Start List and transfer them together with the Referee Report to OFC Professional League Department at the conclusion of the Match.

## 10. DURATION OF A MATCH

- 10.1 Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with an interval of 15 minutes from whistle to whistle.
- 10.2 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 intervals.
- 10.3 The official countdown to kick-off provided to Participating Clubs at the Match Coordination Meeting in advance of the match, shall be strictly complied with by all Participating Clubs.

## 11. PENALTIES

- 11.1 Penalties (penalty shoot-out) shall be taken in accordance with the procedure specified in the IFAB Laws of the Game, as in force from time to time.
- 11.2 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 Participating Club who take each kick in the penalty shoot-out. The Assistant Referees position themselves according to the diagram in the Laws of the Game.
- 11.3 If, at the end of a Match and before penalty shoot-out begins, one Participating Club 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.
- 11.4 Before the start of the penalty shoot-out, the Referee must ensure that an equal number of Players from each Participating Club remains within the centre circle, and they shall take the kicks.

## 12. ABANDONMENT OF MATCHES

- 12.1 If a 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, Tournament Medical Requirements are not followed, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
  - 12.1.1 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.
  - 12.1.2 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.
  - 12.1.3 In the case of an abandoned Match, OFC General Secretariat 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 recommencement shall be organised, taking sporting and organisational considerations into account.
- 12.2 If a referee determines to resume a Match within 15 minutes of its originally being suspended, the Players shall be allowed 5 minutes to warm up on the field of play before the match is resumed. Following any longer suspension, the warm-up time shall be extended to 10 minutes.
- 12.3 If a Match is abandoned pursuant to Article 12.1, the rescheduled 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. Where possible, the Match shall be restarted at the point in play (i.e. goal kick, throw-in, free kick, corner kick, etc.) where it was suspended. Where the ball was live in play when the Match was suspended, the team in possession at the point of suspension restarts with a dropped ball from the last place of possession. The Referee's decision on the location of the ball and team in possession when the Match was suspended is final.

12.4 The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of an abandoned Match:

- 12.4.1 Any recommencement of play must be scheduled so as to comply with the health testing requirements as mandated in the OFC PL HP. 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 OFC PL HP, they may be replaced with a substitute player from the Official Start List.
- 12.4.2 The recommencement of play must be scheduled so as to comply with the health testing requirements as mandated in the OFC PL HP. In general, no additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the Official Start List. However, if a player who was a substitute in the abandoned Match cannot participate in the recommenced match based on the requirements under the OFC PL HP, they may be replaced with a Player from the First Team List, provided that the Player was eligible to play in the original Match.
- 12.4.3 The Players shall be permitted to warm up prior to the recommencement in the same manner as if playing a new Match.
- 12.4.4 The Participating Clubs can make only the number of substitutions to which it was still entitled when the Match was abandoned.
- 12.4.5 If a Participating Club had no remaining substitutes available when the Match was abandoned and one or more of the players on the field at the time of the abandoned Match is unavailable to play in the recommenced Match, may only be replaced if they are unable to participate based on the requirements under the Tournament Health Protocol or Tournament Medical Protocol.
- 12.4.6 Players sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced;
- 12.4.7 Any sanctions imposed before the Match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the Match;
- 12.4.8 Single yellow cards imposed during the abandoned Match do not count towards a suspension for cumulative yellow cards under Article 30 until the suspended match is complete;
- 12.4.9 Any suspension of a Player or Team Official that occurs between the initial abandonment of the Match and its recommencement (e.g. due to a red card in a subsequent game) is not applicable to the recommenced Match and that Player or Team Official shall be entitled to participate in the recommenced Match (subject to any other relevant conditions).

12.5 If a Match is abandoned, in respect of a recommenced Match:

- 12.5.1 The kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by OFC General Secretariat;
- 12.5.2 Any matters requiring further decision shall be decided by the OFC General Secretariat.



### 13. CANCELLATION OF MATCHES

- 13.1 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, Competition Medical Requirements are not followed etc. the following procedures must be followed:
- 13.1.1 Kick off may 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.
  - 13.1.2 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.
  - 13.1.3 If, in the opinion of the Referee, there is clearly no realistic prospect that the conditions preventing the Match from commencing on time can be remedied within one hour of the scheduled kick off time (for example, due to extreme weather conditions), the Referee may cancel the Match without first delaying kick off.
  - 13.1.4 In the case of a cancelled Match, the OFC General Secretariat 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.
- 13.2 Any sanctions imposed before the Match was cancelled remain valid for the rescheduled Match.
- 13.3 In the case of an abandoned or cancelled Match pursuant to Articles 12 and 13, the Referee's decision shall be communicated to the OFC Match Director prior to any decision being communicated to the Participating Clubs.
- 13.4 No Protests may be lodged against decisions made pursuant to Articles 12 and 13, unless there is prima facie evidence that the Referee's decision was made in bad faith. In which case, the OFC General Secretariat, through the OFC Match Director, may refer the Referee's decision to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for determination. The ability to refer such matters lies solely with the OFC General Secretariat.
- 13.5 The OFC General Secretariat may cancel a Match at any time (including in advance of the date when it is scheduled to be played) where it considers, in its discretion, that there is a risk to the safety of Players, spectators and/or Match Officials.
- 13.6 If a Match is cancelled, in respect of a recommenced Match:
- 13.6.1 The kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by OFC General Secretariat;
  - 13.6.1 Any matters requiring further decision shall be decided by OFC General Secretariat.

## SECTION 3 - VENUES

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### 14. MATCH VENUES

- 14.1 OFC Professional League Department shall fix the match venue(s), dates and kick-off times. Decisions of OFC in accordance with this Article shall be final and binding.
- 14.2 The pitch shall have the following dimensions:
  - 14.2.1 Minimum length 100m, Maximum length 110m;
  - 14.2.2 Minimum width 64m, Maximum width 75m.
  - 14.2.3 OFC's preferred dimensions are 105m x 68m.
- 14.3 Clocks in the match venue 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.
- 14.4 If, at any time during the Competition, OFC Professional League Department deems that for whatever reason, some venues may not be fit for staging a Match; OFC Professional League Department reserves the right to change a match venue and make all the necessary arrangements for the staging of the Competition at the alternative match venue.
- 14.5 OFC flags will be hoisted or draped in the venue, clearly visible to spectators at every Match. In addition, OFC retains the right to fly additional flags should the need arise.
- 14.6 The OFC anthem shall be played while the Participating Clubs are entering the field. No national anthems are played during the Competition.
- 14.7 Whenever possible, Participating Clubs will be entitled to warm up on the pitch before a Match. The OFC Match Director reserves the right to shorten or cancel the warm-up session.

### 15. TRAINING VENUES

- 15.1 Prior to two days before the first Match of each Round, Participating Clubs are responsible for ensuring that they have access to adequate training venues and OFC shall not be responsible for the associated costs.
- 15.2 The OFC will ensure that there are sufficient training venues for the Participating Clubs during each Round of the Competition. The training venues shall be available for each Round of the Competition.
- 15.3 Whenever possible, Participating Clubs will be entitled to an official training session of a maximum of 45 minutes the day before a Match at the venue where it is scheduled to play. Training times will be communicated by OFC. OFC reserves the right to shorten or cancel the official training session.
- 15.4 Participating Clubs shall allow OFC and its partners (as determined and authorised from time to time by OFC) reasonable access to their training sessions and venues (both before and during the Competition), for any reasonable purpose (including, without limitation, obtaining pre-match media content, sponsor events, and player educational programmes).

## SECTION 4 – PLAYERS, TEAM OFFICIALS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

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### 16. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 16.1 Each Participating Club shall ensure it complies with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfers of Players (RSTP) and the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes in force when selecting its players for the Competition.
- 16.2 Players shall only be eligible to play if they are duly registered with their Participating Club in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, as well as the regulations of the Participating Club's respective Member Association, by the following deadlines:
  - 16.2.1 For the first Circuit Series Round, no later than 22 December 2025 (New Zealand date);
  - 16.2.2 For the remainder of the Competition, no later than 21 January 2026 (New Zealand date).
  - 16.2.3 Notwithstanding the exceptions which apply under the FIFA RSTP, no Out of Contract Players will not be permitted to be registered to participate in the OFC Professional League.
- 16.3 For clarity, a Player must be registered with the Participating Club's Member Association during the registration period fixed by the relevant Member Association, but no later than the deadlines above.
- 16.4 As a general rule and in accordance with Article 4 of these Regulations, a Participating Club will not be permitted to play in any other league or competition in conflict with the Competition for so long as it is a Participating Club. However, should a Participating Club already participate in the A League, then the following rules shall apply to players in order to be eligible to participate in the OFC Professional League:
  - 16.4.1 Players registered to the Participating Club whom are playing in the A league may also participate in the OFC Professional League provided they are aged a maximum of 23 years old or younger by the end of the applicable season of the OFC Professional League (ie. For the OFC Professional League 2026, all players were 23 years old on or after 1 June 2026); and
  - 16.4.2 Up to three players registered to the Participating Club whom are playing in the A league may participate in the OFC Professional League over the age of 23 years old.
- 16.5 Each Participating Club shall certify to OFC through the prescribed form the following when submitting its First Team List for the Competition:
  - 16.5.1 all professional players have a valid right to work (applicable to their employment as a professional footballer) in the country in which their employing club is situated;
  - 16.5.2 all Players on the First Team List, submitted by a Participating Club prior to the commencement of the Competition shall have a fully professional contract in place with their Participating Club;
  - 16.5.3 a Player may not play in the Competition for more than one Participating Club in the course of the same season; and
  - 16.5.4 a Player has had medical clearance to compete in the Competition.
- 16.6 Only players who comply with and pass the testing requirements and timelines stipulated in the OFC PL HP (negative test result where applicable) will be considered eligible Players.



- 16.7 Any Participating Club that fields an ineligible player shall forfeit the Match or Matches it has played. In any Match where the Participating Club won, the resultant three points will be awarded to the opposing Participating Club in that Match, as well as the score of 3-0, or greater, depending on the score of the Match. All decisions made in respect of this Article 16.7 shall be made by OFC General Secretariat and shall be final and binding. OFC General Secretariat reserves the right to refer any matter pursuant to this Article to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further appropriate disciplinary action against the Participating Club.
- 16.8 Infringements concerning the eligibility of players shall be decided by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in accordance with the OFC Disciplinary Code upon referral by the OFC General Secretariat.
- 16.9 In accordance with Article 47, protests meeting the formal requirements of Article 47 regarding the eligibility of players will be dealt with by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

## 17. OFFICIAL TEAM LIST – GENERAL

- 17.1 The Official Team List for each Participating Club shall be a complete list of all players and Team Officials for the Competition.
- 17.2 The Official Team List for the Competition must be completed in COMET no later than 23 December 2025 (17:00 NZT).
- 17.3 Should the Official Team List not be completed by the stipulated deadline prescribed in Article 17.2, the Participating Club will be subject to the provisions contained at Article 3.3.12.
- 17.4 Each Player and Team Official must be registered in COMET, accompanied by a copy of their passport bio data page uploaded into COMET, with the COMET ID for each Player or Team Official containing all of the following items of data:
- 17.4.1 Surname; and
  - 17.4.2 First name(s); and
  - 17.4.3 OFC name; and
  - 17.4.4 Date of birth; and
  - 17.4.5 Country of birth; and
  - 17.4.6 Passport nationality; and
  - 17.4.7 Valid passport number.
- 17.5 Any Participating Club that fails to provide OFC with the items of data required by this Article will be fined NZ\$ 2,500 by the OFC for each item of data not provided.
- 17.6 Only the Players and Team Officials in the Official Team List will be permitted to participate in the Competition.
- 17.7 Pursuant to Article 16.2, Participating Clubs may add players to the Official Team List only during the registration period as set out at Article 16.2.2 and no later than 22 January 2026 (17:00 NZT). For the avoidance of doubt, Participating Clubs are not permitted to replace players already included in the Official Team List submitted by the date as set out at Article 17.2.

- 17.8 OFC shall issue each Player and Team Official in the Official Team List with an Accreditation. The Accreditation shall always be available for inspection during the Competition.

## 18. OFFICIAL TEAM LIST – FIRST TEAM LIST

- 18.1 Each Participating Club must maintain a First Team List, which must include a minimum of 20 Players.
- 18.2 A Participating Club's First Team List may include a maximum of 23 Players.
- 18.3 A Participating Club's First Team List must include a least 3 goalkeepers, regardless of the total number of Players nominated. A Player who is registered as a goalkeeper on the First Team List may only play as a goalkeeper.
- 18.4 A Participating Club's First Team List must be completed in COMET no later than the following dates for each Round:
- 18.4.1 First Round: 23 December 2025 (17:00 NZT);
- 18.4.2 Second Round: 22 January 2026 (17:00 NZT)
- 18.5 A Participating Club's First Team List may be updated only to include additional players, not replacements through the following:
- 18.5.1 To include Players registered between the first Circuit Series Round and second Circuit Series Round; and
- 18.5.2 In the event of an injury, to promote a player from the Injury Reserve List in accordance with Article 19.
- 18.6 In accordance with Article 16.4, a Participating Club which participates in both the OFC Professional League and the A League may include in its First Team List the following players who play in the A League:
- 18.6.1 A maximum of three players who will be aged 23 or over at 1.06.2026; and
- 18.6.2 Any amount of players aged 23 and under at 1.06.2026.
- 18.7 Each Participating Club may include up to three Non-citizen foreign Players (Players who do not hold the nationality of the Ordinary Member Association to which the Participating Club is affiliated) within the maximum of 23 Players. Participating Clubs may also include three additional Non-citizen Foreign Players who holds the nationality of an OFC Ordinary Member Association, within the maximum of 23 Players. In all cases, the nationality of the Player shall be in accordance with the FIFA Statutes – Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes. In addition to the information required by Article 17.4, the Official Team List must also include the following items of data for each Player:
- 18.7.1 Number on shirt
- 18.7.2 Position
- 18.7.3 Date of registration with the Participating Club
- 18.8 Any Participating Club that fails to provide OFC with the items of data required by this Article will be fined NZ\$ 1,000.00 by the OFC for each item of data not provided.

- 18.9 Before the Commencement of each Round, a Player on the First Team List must prove their identity and nationality by producing their legally valid passport with a photograph (stating day, month and year of birth) or a legally valid Certificate of Identity. Any Player who fails to present a valid proof of identity will not be allowed to take part in the Competition.
- 18.10 The Participating Club will be fined NZ\$ 1,000.00 for each Player who fails to provide OFC with the required document pursuant to Article 18.8.
- 18.11 Only eligible Players listed on the First Team List are permitted to be selected for the Official Start List.

## 19. OFFICIAL TEAM LIST – INJURY RESERVE LIST

- 19.1 Each Participating Club may maintain an Injury Reserve List. The Injury Reserve List may contain up to 30 injury reserve players who must be aged a maximum of 21 years old or younger by the end of the calendar year prior to the season of the OFC Professional League (ie. for the OFC Professional League 2026, all players were 21 years old on or before 31 December 2025). An injury reserve is not eligible to participate in a Match unless and until they have been promoted to the First Team List in place of another Player who has suffered an injury.
- 19.2 If a Participating Club maintains an Injury Reserve List, all players included in the Injury Reserve List must be registered with their Participating Club during the registration periods set out at Article 16.2. The Injury Reserve List must be included in the Participating Club's Official Team List and submitted by the deadline specified in Article 17.
- 19.3 All players on an Injury Reserve List must be citizens of the country where that MA Territory Club's Member Association is established.
- 19.4 All Participating Clubs must provide to OFC for all players included in the First Team List from the Injury Reserve List through the prescribed form all criterion specified from 16.5.1-16.5.4.
- 19.5 A player, other than a goalkeeper, may only be promoted from the Injury Reserve List to the First Team List in the event that the Player they are replacing suffers an injury or illness that will prevent them from playing any matches for the rest of the OFC Professional League season, as evidenced by an independent doctor's report. A Player who is so replaced on the First Team List cannot be reinstated within the same edition of the Competition.
- 19.6 Where a Participating Club has only one fit senior goalkeeper, as evidenced by an independent doctor's report, it may promote a goalkeeper from its Injury Reserve List to its First Team List on a temporary basis, until two of the goalkeepers registered on its original First Team List are available to play again.
- 19.7 The Participating Club with whom a replaced player is registered must still fulfil any contractual obligations it has to the player in full, notwithstanding their ineligibility to participate further in the Competition.
- 19.8 As of the first day of the fifth round of the Circuit Series Round, a Player who is not a goalkeeper may not be replaced with a player from the Injury Reserve List.
- 19.9 A Participating Club that does not maintain an Injury Reserve List will not be entitled to replace any injured Player from its First Team List.



- 19.10 Rules under this Article related to injuries obtained via suffering a concussion will be applicable once communicated via Circular attaching the OFC Concussion Protocol.

## 20. OFFICIAL TEAM LIST - TEAM OFFICIALS

- 20.1 Each Participating Club may include an unlimited number of Team Officials in the Official Team List for the Competition.
- 20.2 The following Team Officials must meet the minimum coaching qualification specified:
- 20.2.1 The head coach and assistant must hold at the minimum an OFC B License (or equivalent).
- 20.2.2 The goalkeeper coach must hold at the minimum an OFC C License (or equivalent).
- 20.3 Failure of the aforementioned coaches to meet the minimum coaching qualification requirements listed in Article 20.2 will result in that Team Official not being issued with an Accreditation. For the avoidance of doubt, only Officials issued with an Accreditation will be permitted to access accredited areas, including the team bench.
- 20.4 The Participating Club is entitled to register a 'Video Analyst', as one of the Team Officials who is permitted to record the Matches in the Competition. All recordings shall be used strictly only for technical purposes and shall not
- 20.4.1 interfere with Match operation;
- 20.4.2 be republished or repurposed on any social media, broadcast, radio platform or similar without the prior written consent of OFC; or
- 20.4.3 be exploited commercially in any manner by the Participating Club without the prior written consent of OFC.
- 20.5 OFC may require a Participating Club to provide its recordings to OFC or its commercial partners for use in the promotion of the Competition or the service of its commercial interests.
- 20.6 OFC retains the right to remove Accreditation from any Team Official who does not comply with this Article 20. Any decision shall be final and binding.
- 20.7 In addition to the information specific in Article 17.4, the Official Team List must also include the following items of data for each Team Official;
- 20.7.1 Function
- 20.7.2 Coaching License (where applicable)
- 20.7.3 CFIFA Nationality
- 20.8 Any Participating Club that fails to provide OFC with the items of data required by this Article will be fined NZ\$ 1,000.00 by the OFC for each item of data not provided.
- 20.8 At any time after the deadline for submission of the Official Team List, an Official may be:
- 20.9.1 added to the Official Team List; or
- 20.9.2 replaced by another Team Official.

## 21. OFFICIAL START LIST

- 21.1 No later than 85 minutes prior to the kick off time of each Match, Participating Clubs must submit an Official Start List in COMET, containing:
  - 21.1.1 the names and numbers of the Players, identifying the goalkeepers and team captain;
  - 21.1.2 names and numbers of substitutes; and
  - 21.1.3 Team Officials on the bench,

selected for that Match
- 21.2 The 11 selected Players (Starting Players) must commence the Match. The remaining Players are designated as substitutes. The numbers on the shirts worn by players during the Match must correspond with the numbers indicated as against that player on the Official Team List.
- 21.3 The Official Start List must contain a minimum of 14 Players. If there are fewer than 14 Players available, OFC will consider the matter and may make exceptions on a caseby-case basis.
- 21.4 At least one of the Official Start List players must be a goalkeeper, up to a maximum of three, with the number 1 shirt reserved for one of them.
- 21.5 The OFC Match Director and/or Match Official may ask to see the Accreditation and passports of the Players whose names are listed on the Official Start List.
- 21.6 Each Player who is named on the Official Start List must be available at the equipment check undertaken by the fourth official and/or the OFC Match Director before every match.
- 21.7 After the Official Start List has been submitted, and if the Match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions apply:
  - 21.7.1 If any of the Starting Players named on the Official 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 substitutes shall be reduced accordingly. During the Match, up to five Players may still be replaced.
  - 21.7.2 If any of the substitutes named on the Official 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.
  - 21.7.3 Further to the above, any injured or ill Player who is removed from the Official Start List will no longer be eligible to take part in the Match, and thus cannot be selected as a substitute at any time during the Match. Such a change to the Official Start List will not reduce the number of official substitutions that may be made by a Participating Club 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.
  - 21.7.4 Although no longer eligible to play as a substitute, the injured or ill Player who was removed from the Official Start List may be seated on the substitutes' bench, and if so, would then also be eligible for doping control selection.
- 21.8 Only the Starting Players who were identified on the Official Start List submitted to the OFC Match Director or have been confirmed to the Referee as replacements to the Official Start List in accordance with Article 21.7.1, 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.

- 21.9 A suspended Player will not be allowed to sit on the team bench.

## 22. SUBSTITUTION AND WARM UP

- 22.1 The substitution of five Players per Team is permitted in the course of a Match, in accordance with Law 3 – The Players – temporary amendment.
- 22.2 During the Match, each Participating Club:
- 22.2.1 may use a maximum of five substitutes;
  - 22.2.2 has a maximum of three substitution opportunities; and
  - 22.2.3 may additionally make substitutions at half-time.
- 22.3 Where extra time is played, each Participating Club:
- 22.3.1 may use an additional substitute (whether or not the Participating Club has used its maximum number of substitutes);
  - 22.3.2 has one additional substitution opportunity (whether or not the Participating Club has used its maximum number of substitution opportunities);
  - 22.3.3 may additionally make substitutions:
    - (a) in the period before the start of extra time; and
    - (b) at half-time in extra time.
- 22.4 If a Participating Club has not used its maximum number of substitutes or substitution opportunities, the unused substitutions and opportunities may be used in extra time.
- 22.5 Where both Participating Clubs make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each Participating Club.
- 22.6 In addition to the above substitution rules, a Participating Club may use a maximum of one 'concussion substitute' in a match where a Player suffers a concussion, or suspected concussion, in accordance with the OFC Concussion Protocol. A 'concussion substitute' may be made regardless of the number of substitutes, or substitution opportunities used. The 'concussion substitute' can be a player who has previously been substituted and may be used at any time. Where a team makes a 'concussion substitution' the opposing team can use an 'additional substitute' and receive an 'additional substitution opportunity', this may also be a player who has previously been substituted. This 'additional substitution opportunity' can be used only for the 'additional substitute' and not for a 'normal substitute'.
- 22.7 During the Match, substitutes are allowed to leave the technical area to warm-up. At the Match Coordination Meeting, the Match Director 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.
- 22.8 If space permits, a maximum of six substitutes per Participating Club shall be allowed to warm-up at the same time. A maximum of two Team Officials are permitted to accompany the Players.



## 23. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 23.1 The OFC Referee Department is responsible for appointing Match Officials to each Match.
- 23.2 Up to six Match Officials (one Referee, plus two Assistant Referees, one-Fourth Official, one Fifth Official and one Video Assistant Referee) 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 Club who is playing in the Match in question.
- 23.3 The OFC Referee Department may decide to appoint a Match Official not on the FIFA International Refereeing List in force, but who has the necessary experience to officiate at the Competition.
- 23.4 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 the Competition.
- 23.5 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.
- 23.6 The Match Officials shall receive their Official Referee Uniform upon arrival in the host country from OFC. They shall wear only the Official Referee Uniform while representing OFC.
- 23.7 The Match Officials shall be given the opportunity to use the training site(s).
- 23.8 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.
- 23.9 A minimum of three Match Officials are needed to referee the Match.
- 23.10 After each Match, the Referee shall complete and sign the Referee Report. The Referee shall hand it to the OFC Match Director at the match 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 a Participating Club at the Match and any other incident happening before, during and after the Match in as much detail as possible.
- 23.11 The decisions of the OFC Referee Department are final and not subject to appeal.

## SECTION 5 – RECRUITMENT, REGISTRATION AND CONTRACTS

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### 24. RECRUITMENT OF PLAYERS

- 24.1 No Participating Club shall attempt, by any means and through any person or entity, to solicit the employment and/or registration of a Player who is under contract with another Participating Club, unless:
  - 24.1.1 The Participating Club currently holding the Player's registration has given consent; or
  - 24.1.2 The Player's contract with his current Participating Club is due to expire within six months, and the Player's current Participating Club has been given notice in writing.
- 24.2 No Player shall attempt, by any means and through any person or entity, to solicit employment and/or registration with a Participating Club other than the Participating Club to which he is contracted, unless:
  - 24.2.1 The Participating Club currently holding the Player's registration has given consent; or
  - 24.2.2 The Player's contract with his current Participating Club is due to expire within six months. In the event that the prospective new Participating Club wishes to negotiate the Player's engagement, it must give the Player's existing Participating Club notice in writing in accordance with Article 24.1.2.
- 24.3 All material benefits of any kind offered to or provided by a Participating Club to a Player, or any person or entity connected with them, for the purposes of incentivising that Player to sign a contract with the Participating Club (including a contract extension), must be included in the Player's contract. For the purpose of this Article, meals or reasonably equivalent entertainment enjoyed in the course of negotiation with the Player are non-material benefits and are exempt from declaration in the playing contract.
- 24.4 OFC may refuse the registration of a player to play in the Competition if it considers, in its reasonable opinion, that:
  - 24.4.1 The player is seeking registration with a Participating Club in consequence (to any extent) of breaches of Articles 24.1 and 24.2 above; or
  - 24.4.2 any benefit offered to that player (or any person or entity connected with them) by his registering with the Participating Club is improper and may amount to bribery or undue influence.
- 24.5 Participating Clubs shall comply at all times with FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (as in force from time to time).
- 24.6 A Club may not register a Player under the age of 16.
- 24.7 OFC reserves the right to refer Participating Clubs to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for breaches of this Article 24 where it deems it appropriate. Sanction for breaches shall be at the discretion of the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee

## 25. USE OF STANDARD FORM CONTRACT

- 25.1 All contracts entered into between a Participating Club and the player must follow the guidelines of a standard form contract as communicated to all Participating Clubs by OFC via Circular.
- 25.2 Where a contract was in force between a Participating Club and Player prior to the Participating Club's entry into the Competition, and that contract is not due to expire prior to the Commencement of the Competition, the Club and Player shall use all reasonable endeavours to terminate the existing contract and replace it with an equivalent Contract, on terms no less favourable to the Player.

## 26. PAYMENT OF PLAYERS

- 26.1 Players shall only be paid in accordance with the terms of their contract with their registering Participating Club. No Participating Club shall provide any payment or benefit to a Player other than as provided in their contract, save for benefits provided in the ordinary course of the Participating Club's activities (such as travel and medical care) and which are equally available to all Players at the Participating Club, subject to need.
- 26.2 Notwithstanding Article 26.1, a Club may pay a Player's reasonable relocation expenses where that Player's relocation is reasonably necessary in order to play for the Member Association Club.
- 26.3 Participating Clubs must make all payments due to their contracted Players on time and in full, in accordance with the applicable contracts. Failure by a Participating Club to meet its contractual obligations to its Players is a breach of these regulations, and OFC may refer such breach to the OFC Disciplinary Committee for sanction.

## 27. LENGTHS OF PLAYER CONTRACTS

- 27.1 Contracts between Participating Clubs and Players:
  - 27.1.1 Must terminate on 24 May in the year of expiry.
  - 27.1.2 Must not exceed five years in length.

## 28. INTERMEDIARIES

- 28.1 Participating Clubs, Team Officials and Players must comply at all times with the FFAR (or any equivalent or successor regulation) as in force from time to time. OFC reserves the right to refer any suspected breaches of the FFAR to both FIFA and/ or the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, for investigation and possible sanction.



## SECTION 6 – TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

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### 29. LAWS OF THE GAME

- 29.1 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.

### 30. RED AND YELLOW CARDS

- 30.1 If a Player or Team Official receives three yellow cards in three different matches in the Circuit Series Round of the Competition, they will be suspended from their Participating Club's next Match in the Competition.
- 30.2 If a Player or Team Official is sent off as a result of two yellow cards during the same Match, or a direct red card for reasons other than those set out in Article 30.3, they will be automatically suspended from their Participating Club's next Match in the Competition. In addition, further sanctions can be imposed in line with the OFC Disciplinary Code in force at the time of the Competition.

- 30.3 If a Player or Team Official is sent off as a result of a direct red card for:

30.3.1 Serious foul play;

30.3.2 Biting or spitting; or

30.3.3 Violent Conduct (each as defined in the Laws of the Game),

The default period of suspension for that Player or Team Official shall be their Participating Club's next three Matches. The OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may reduce or extend the default suspension as it considers appropriate to the conduct of the Player or Team Official. In addition, further sanctions can be imposed in line with the OFC Disciplinary Code in force at the time of the Competition.

- 30.4 A Participating Club may submit any factors it considers relevant to the mitigation of the default ban under Article 30.3 to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee by the Protest process set out in Article 47.
- 30.5 Accumulated yellow cards received during the Circuit Series Round shall not be carried over into the following phases of the Competition.
- 30.6 If a Player or Team Official receives a yellow card in two different Matches in the Play Off Groups, Semi-Final Playoff and Semi-Final stages (combined), that Player or Team Official shall be suspended from their Participating Club's next Match in the Competition.
- 30.7 Cautions and pending yellow card suspensions from the Competition expire at the end of the Competition.
- 30.8 Red card suspensions from the Competition carry through to the next season of the Competition.

### 31. REFEREEING

- 31.1 The OFC Referee Department will appoint all Match Officials for each Match in the Competition.
- 31.2 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.
- 31.3 The OFC Referee Assessor must complete the Referee Assessor Report and send it to the OFC Referees Department at the conclusion of the match.

### 32. VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE (VAR)

- 32.1 The use of VAR shall be permitted in all Matches in the Competition, unless otherwise directed by OFC. VAR shall be used in accordance with the video assistant referee (VAR) protocol contained within the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 32.2 OFC shall ensure that each Match venue is fitted with such equipment as is necessary to enable the use of VAR in each scheduled Match, to the standards required by FIFA.
- 32.3 The use of VAR to review any specific incident or decision is strictly at the discretion of the Match Officials appointed to the relevant Match. The non-use of VAR at any juncture of the Match does not affect or diminish the validity or finality of the Referee's decision. Other than where the Match Officials overturn, at their own discretion, a decision by the Referee, all decisions of the Referee are final and binding on both Participating Clubs.
- 32.4 In the event of a malfunction in the technology necessary for the use of VAR, a Match shall proceed or continue without the use of VAR. The unavailability of VAR for a Match shall not affect or diminish the validity or finality of decisions made by the Referee during the Match.
- 32.5 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.

### 33. TEAM BENCH AND TECHNICAL AREA

- 33.1 Subject to the infrastructure availability, not more than 23 people (maximum 11 Team Officials and remaining substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the team bench in the technical area.
- 33.2 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.

### 34. TEAM EQUIPMENT

- 34.1 The Participating Club 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 Team Officials on their playing or team kits, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, etc.) or body is prohibited.

- 34.2 The similar display of commercial messages and slogans in any language or form by Players and Team Officials is not allowed for the duration of their time at any official activity organised or recognised by OFC (including in the stadiums for Matches and training sessions, as well as during official media conferences and mixed-zone activities), save for the approved commercial sponsors on team kit or, where appropriate, ordinary branding on personal items of clothing.
- 34.3 Participating Clubs must submit proposals for any visible commercial sponsorship intending to be included on the team kit (whether on playing kit or training and warm-up attire) to OFC for approval 21 days prior to the Commencement of the Competition. Proposals must specify the proposed size and placement of the relevant mark, logo, slogan or other commercial branding on the relevant part of the team kit. Only marks, logos, slogans or other commercial branding that have been approved by OFC may be displayed in official team kit. Proposals for visible sponsorships on the team kit must comply with the provisions of the OFC Professional League Media and Marketing Regulations 2025.
- 34.4 A Participating Club shall not change their approved sponsors during the Competition but may cease to display any approved sponsorship at any point during the season, at its discretion. In the event a Participating Club wishes to introduce a new sponsor during the Competition, the process outlined in the OFC Professional League Media and Marketing Regulations 2025 must be followed to gain approval from OFC.
- 34.5 Any Participating Club that does not comply with Articles 34.1-34.4 (inclusive) shall be fined a minimum of NZ\$ 2000 by the OFC General Secretariat in respect of each individual breach.
- 34.6 From the Commencement of the Competition, player names must be shown on the back of the playing jerseys. The playing jerseys must use numbers between 1 and 99. 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 and visible on the back of the playing shirt and on the front of the shorts. The same number may, at the Participating Clubs' discretion, be displayed on the front of the shirt. In the event of a goalkeeper being replaced by an outfield Player, each Participating Club 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.
- 34.7 Throughout all stages of the Competition, each Player shall wear the number assigned to them on the Official Team List.
- 34.8 The official and reserve team playing kits and all goalkeeper kits (including the goalkeeper shirts without names and numbers) shall be taken to every Match.
- 34.9 In the event of a Player's shirt needing replacement during a Match, each Participating Club shall provide at least three "blood shirts" in both "official" and "reserve" colours without a number displayed on the back of the shirt in order to distinguish a Player should they need to change their shirt.
- 34.10 OFC Professional League Department reserves the right to request any OFC logo to appear on the right sleeve of the shirt during Matches, between the shoulder seam and the elbow. OFC Professional League Department will provide each Participating Club with sufficient temporary sleeve patches to cover their needs throughout the Competition.



### 35. TEAM COLOURS

- 35.1 Each Participating Club shall inform the OFC Professional League Department of two different and contrasting colours (one predominantly dark and one predominantly light) for its official and reserve team kits. In addition, each Participating Club 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 official and reserve team kits.
- 35.2 This information, supported by photos or samples of their official and reserve team kits, shall be sent to the OFC Professional League Department on the official form and no later than 31 October in the year preceding the next Competition. Only these colours may be worn during Matches. Any Participating Club that does not comply with this Article shall be fined NZ\$ 2000 by the OFC.
- 35.3 The OFC Professional League Department will inform the Participating Club of the playing colours before the start of each Match. As far as possible, each Participating Club shall wear its official colours as declared on the official form. If the two Participating Club's colours and the Match Officials' colours might cause confusion, in principle, Participating Club 'A' in the Match schedule shall be entitled to wear its official kit and Participating Club 'B' shall use its reserve kit or, if necessary, both Participating Clubs may have to wear a combination of their official and reserve team kits. The colours decided by the OFC Professional League Department, in consultation with the Match Officials, are final.

### 36. FOOTBALLS

- 36.1 OFC General Secretariat will determine the official match ball of the Competition and each Participating Club will receive a minimum of 48 official match balls for training purposes, distributed as 24 balls prior to the start of the Competition and 24 prior to the fourth Circuit Series round.

### 37. TROPHIES, AWARDS AND MEDALS

- 37.1 A representative from OFC will present the winner with the OFC Professional League trophy.
- 37.2 35 medals will be presented to each of the Participating Clubs contesting the final:
  - 37.2.1 Gold medals to the winners;
  - 37.2.2 Silver medals to the runner-up.
- 37.3 A fair play contest will be held during the Competition, with the number of yellow and red cards in all stages of the Competition being considered according to the points below. OFC will determine the ranking at the end of the Competition. Such decisions are final.
  - 37.3.1 First yellow card: minus 1 point
  - 37.3.2 Second yellow card/indirect red card: minus 3 points
  - 37.3.3 Direct red card: minus 4 points
  - 37.3.4 Yellow card and direct red card: minus 5 points

- 37.4 Upon conclusion of the Competition, the following special awards will be presented by a representative from OFC:
- 37.4.1 Fair Play Trophy, presented to the Participating Club finishing first in the fair play contest.
  - 37.4.2 Golden Boot, awarded to the Player who scores the most goals in the Competition.
  - 37.4.3 Golden Ball, awarded to the most influential Player in the Competition as determined by OFC.
  - 37.4.4 Golden Glove, awarded to the best goalkeeper in the Competition as determined by OFC.
- 37.5 There are no official awards other than those listed above unless otherwise decided by the OFC Executive Committee.

## SECTION 7 – SAFETY AND SECURITY

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### 38. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 38.1 It shall be the responsibility of OFC to ensure that:
- 38.1.1 order and safety are maintained around the Match venues before, during and after Matches;
  - 38.1.2 there is the presence of a sufficient number of ground staff and security stewards at each Match to guarantee safety and security;
  - 38.1.3 the Match and training venues are in good condition to host the respective stage of the Competition, including but not limited to the pitch quality.

## SECTION 8 – MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING

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### 39. FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

- 39.1 Each Participating Club shall include at least one medical professional as required under the Club Licensing Regulations criteria as part of their Match Delegation for each Round.

### 40. PRE-COMPETITION MEDICAL OBLIGATIONS

- 40.1 All Participating Clubs shall comply with the OFC Professional League Healthcare Protocol (OFC PL HP) and OFC Professional League Medical Requirements (OFC PL MR) as defined and approved by OFC and prescribed in the relevant circular.
- 40.2 Participating Clubs will be responsible for ensuring compliance with any travel and entry medical requirements of any country in which they are scheduled to play a Match.
- 40.3 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.

- 40.4 In accordance with Article 40.3, such certification shall be submitted to OFC via COMET in the prescribed form no more than 21 days and no less than 7 days prior to the Commencement of the Competition.
- 40.5 Failure to comply with Articles 40.1 and 40.2:
- 40.5.1 Will result in the Participating Club being liable for disciplinary action in accordance with the OFC Disciplinary Code; and
  - 40.5.2 May result in the Player(s) whose certification is missing or inadequate being deemed ineligible to play in a Match until such time as the required certification is provided.
- 40.6 All Participating Clubs will be aware of the re-entry requirements for their home country if any of its Delegation Members may come into contact with a communicable disease whilst travelling for the Competition, and ensure that Delegation Members meet the respective requirements.
- 40.7 All Participating Clubs must be prepared with a comprehensive first aid/medical kit which must include a thermometer and masks, and a plan for isolating any Delegation Members who become unwell.

#### 41. CONCUSSION & PROCEDURE IN CASE OF SEVERE INJURY TO PLAYERS

- 41.1 In accordance with the OFC Concussion Protocol, in the event of a suspected concussion, the Referee stops the game to allow the injured Player to be assessed by the Match doctor, in accordance with Law 5 of the IFAB Laws of the Game. In principle, this should take no more than three minutes, unless a serious incident requires the player to be treated on the field of play or immobilised on the field for immediate transfer to hospital (e.g. spinal injury).
- 41.2 Any Player suffering a head injury that requires assessment for potential concussion will only be allowed to continue playing after such an assessment, upon specific confirmation by the Match doctor to the Referee of the player's fitness to do so.

#### 42. ANTI-DOPING

- 42.1 Doping is strictly prohibited. The OFC Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Doping Control Regulations and all other relevant OFC and/or FIFA directives shall apply to the Competition.
- 42.2 All Players agree to refrain from doping as defined by the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.
- 42.3 OFC shall be responsible for deciding which laboratory among those accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) will analyse samples.

#### 43. COOLING BREAK

- 43.1 During the Competition, the cooling break will be applied in line with the FIFA Football Emergency Medicine Manual.
- 43.2 The Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) will be the official measure used to determine whether cooling breaks shall be implemented. The WBGT is a composite temperature used to estimate the effect of temperature, humidity, wind speed (wind chill), and visible and infrared radiation on Players.



- 43.3 In principle, the break will apply on a Match-by-Match basis during the Competition if the WBGT is greater than 28°C and will be confirmed to the Participating Clubs and Match Officials by the OFC Match Director of each Match.
- 43.4 The cooling break will be the maximum of three minutes in duration and will be signalled by the Referee at approximately 30 minutes into the run-of-play in both halves of the Match.
- 43.5 The below procedures will be applied during Competition Matches:
- 43.5.1 The ball must be out of play for the cooling break to commence.
  - 43.5.2 The Referee will signal the start of the break.
  - 43.5.3 All Players will go to their respective bench/technical area and use ice and cold towels to cool down.
  - 43.5.4 The Match time will continue to run.
  - 43.5.5 After three minutes, the Referee will signal the conclusion of the break, and the Match will restart.
  - 43.5.6 The three minutes will be added to stoppage time.

## SECTION 9 – INTEGRITY AND DISCIPLINARY

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### 44. INTEGRITY OF THE COMPETITION

- 44.1 All persons bound by OFC's rules and regulations, including these Regulations, must refrain from any behaviour that damages or could damage the integrity of Matches, the Competition or the good reputation of OFC and must always cooperate fully with OFC in its efforts to combat such behaviour.
- 44.2 The integrity of Matches and the Competition is violated, for example but not limited to, by anyone bound by OFC's rules and regulations:
- 44.2.1 who acts in a manner that is likely to exert an unlawful or undue influence on the course and/or result and/or a specific element of a Match or the Competition with a view to gaining an advantage for themselves or a third party;
  - 44.2.2 who participates directly or indirectly in betting or similar activities relating to football or who has a direct or indirect financial interest in such activities;
  - 44.2.3 who uses or provides others with information, which is not publicly available, which is obtained through their position in football and/or the Competition, that damages or has the potential to damage the integrity of a Match or the Competition;
  - 44.2.4 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
  - 44.2.5 who does not immediately and voluntarily report to OFC any behaviour they are aware of that may fall within the scope of this Article.

- 44.3 Concerns or complaints of integrity issues or match-fixing must be reported immediately to the OFC Integrity Officer by email to [integrity@oceaniafootball.com](mailto:integrity@oceaniafootball.com),
- 44.4 If filed after the relevant Match, 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.
- 44.5 If OFC concludes to its reasonable satisfaction that a Participating Club has been directly and/or indirectly involved in any activity aimed at arranging or influencing the outcome or element of a Match in the Competition, such Participating Club will be referred to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for sanction and/or removal from the Competition, if such conduct is connected to any match taking place during the OFC Professional League season 2026.

## 45. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

- 45.1 It shall be an offence for any person bound by the OFC's rules and regulations to engage in any conduct, whether through the use of language, gestures or otherwise, which is likely to offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify any person participating in the Competition in the position of Player, player support personnel, Referee or Match Official or any other person (including but not limited to, supporters) on the basis of their race, religion, culture, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marital status and/or maternity status.
- 45.2 Concerns or complaints of Prohibited Conduct must be reported immediately to the OFC Integrity Officer by email to [integrity@oceaniafootball.com](mailto:integrity@oceaniafootball.com).

## 46. INVESTIGATIONS

- 46.1 The OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or any delegated person or body (**Approved Persons**) shall have the full power to investigate any matter to monitor compliance with these Regulations, irrespective of whether the matter:
  - 46.1.1 arises prior to the Commencement of the Competition or after; or
  - 46.1.2 arises in a country not said to fall under the OFC jurisdiction.
- 46.2 Approved Persons may:
  - 46.2.1 request and conduct interviews;
  - 46.2.2 require a person bound by these Regulations to immediately or at a time specified:
    - (a) provide access to objects, information, documents or records in such form as the Approved Person may require;
    - (b) allow an Approved Person to inspect, copy, image or download any electronic communication and storage devices in the possession or control of a person (including without limitation, mobile telephones, tablets, laptops, smart watches and hard drives);

- (c) give the Approved Person access to or allow them to download data from any web-based accounts and applications owned, belonging to, in the name of or operated by the Person (including without limitation e-wallets, bank accounts, applications used for cloud-based storage, communications, financial services (in any type of currency), cryptocurrency, peer-to-peer mediums of value transfer or social media).

- 46.3 Any person bound by these Regulations must cooperate with an Approved Person in the exercise of any of their powers.
- 46.4 It shall be an offence to tamper with or hide any evidence related to a breach of these Regulations and/or encourage another person to do so.

#### 47. PROTEST

- 47.1 For the purposes of these Regulations, protests are objections related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players in accordance with Article 16 of these Regulations, stadium installations and footballs.
- 47.2 Unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations, to be considered valid, every Protest must be:
  - 47.2.1 submitted in writing (using the appropriate Protest Form issued by OFC) to the OFC Match Director for the relevant Match within two hours of the final whistle (**the Protest Deadline**); and
  - 47.2.2 followed up with a full written report (including a copy of the original Protest Form) which must be sent to the OFC Match Director within 24 hours of the Protest Deadline; and
  - 47.2.3 accompanied by a non-refundable fee of NZ\$500 (non-inclusive of any bank charges), which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the OFC Match Director within 24 hours of the Protest Deadline.
- 47.3 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 Team Official of the Participating Club lodging the Protest.
- 47.4 No Protest shall be lodged relating to the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and binding and not subject to appeal, unless otherwise stipulated in the OFC Disciplinary Code. The same applies to any potential issue concerning the use and/or operation of any goal-line technology and/or Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system.
- 47.5 If any of the formal requirements as set out in these Regulations at Article 47.2 (and in the OFC Disciplinary Code) are not met, the relevant Protest shall be disregarded. The OFC General Secretariat decides whether such formal requirements have been met. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.
- 47.6 Subject to Article 47.4 and any other exceptions set out in these Regulations, the OFC Disciplinary Code, OFC statutes and/or any other applicable OFC regulation, the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall make decisions on Protests. Should the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee determine that a Protest is unfounded or irresponsible, it may impose a fine.



- 47.7 In compliance with Article 44 of the OFC Statutes, Participating Clubs may not take disputes to a civil court. If decisions are subject to appeal, the Participating Clubs shall undertake to submit any such disputes to the jurisdiction of OFC, and, should the need arise, to FIFA and/or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).
- 47.8 Once the Competition has finished, any Protests regarding the sporting procedure during the Competition shall be disregarded.

#### 48. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

- 48.1 Disciplinary incidents during the Competition are dealt with in compliance with the OFC Disciplinary Code in force as well as with the relevant regulations, circulars, OFC Statutes and directives, with which the Participating Clubs undertake to comply.
- 48.2 OFC may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to Participating Clubs at least two weeks before the Commencement of the Competition.
- 48.3 The Participating Clubs agree to comply with the Laws of the Game and with the OFC Statutes and regulations, in particular the OFC Disciplinary Code, OFC Code of Ethics, OFC Professional League Media and Marketing Regulations, 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.
- 48.4 In addition, the players agree notably to:
- 48.4.1 respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence; and
  - 48.4.2 behave accordingly.

#### 49. ARBITRATION

- 49.1 Any dispute in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.
- 49.2 In compliance with the OFC Statutes, Participating Clubs, Member Associations, Players and Team Officials are prohibited from initiating disputes in an ordinary court of law and must submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of OFC.
- 49.3 Participating Clubs, Member Associations, Players and Team Officials acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at OFC, their sole recourse shall be the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall be applicable. The language of arbitration shall be English. Any hearing, if required, shall take place at the CAS decentralised office in Sydney (or at any other venue in the Oceania region as agreed between the parties).

## SECTION 13 – FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

### 50. INSURANCE

- 50.1 OFC will arrange suitable insurance policies to cover risks associated with the staging of Matches and events required to be attended by Participating Clubs for the OFC Professional League. The insurance put in place by OFC shall be limited to the scope of OFC Professional League activities as aforementioned in this Article 50.1 and is in addition to the insurance required to be put in place by each Participating Club.
- 50.2 Each Participating Club shall comply promptly with any request or directive from OFC which is necessary to obtain, renew, or maintain the validity of insurance relating to the Competition and its activities (including Matches).
- 50.3 Each Participating Club must have adequate insurance cover for the entire OFC Professional League season, at their own expense, for the following areas:
  - 50.3.1 Travel insurance which covers all of their players, officials and delegation members;
  - 50.3.2 Health insurance for all players, officials and delegation members;
  - 50.3.3 Public liability, which covers the Club as a whole.
- 50.4 Claims for damages against OFC by Participating Clubs or any Delegation Member at a Match are expressly excluded, and the Participating Clubs shall hold OFC harmless against any such claims.
- 50.5 Each Participating Club must maintain adequate insurance against risks associated with its training facilities and activities (including serious injury to Players and public liability). Each Participating Club shall provide details of its coverage to OFC for the purpose of assessing its adequacy. OFC shall be entitled to require a Participating Club to extend the scope or value of its insurance coverage where OFC considers, in its sole discretion, that said coverage is inadequate.
- 50.6 Each Participating Club 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.
- 50.7 OFC maintains subrogation rights against the Participating Clubs for any liability arising from their participation in the Competition.

### 51. SUSTAINABILITY

- 51.1 OFC reserves the right to impose such requirements, conditions or restrictions upon the activity of a Participating Club as it considers necessary following review of that Participating Club's Budget and/or Future Financial Information.
- 51.2 In the event that a Participating Club breaches any requirement, condition or restriction imposed on it by OFC in accordance with Article 51.1, that breach will be deemed to be a breach of these Regulations and OFC may refer that Participating Club to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

- 51.3 The OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall be entitled, in its discretion, to implement a ban on the registration of new Players by a Member Association Club in consequence of any breaches under this Article 51.

## 52. PRIZE MONEY

- 52.1 OFC will determine the prize money available for distribution at the conclusion of each iteration of the Competition, according to the amount approved by the OFC Executive Committee.
- 52.2 The prize money will be distributed on the following model:
- 52.2.1 The winner of the final of the Competition will receive 25% of the total prize money as approved by the OFC Executive Committee;
  - 52.2.2 The runner up of the final of the Competition will receive 15% of the total prize money as approved by the OFC Executive Committee; and
  - 52.2.3 All other Participant Clubs of the Competition will receive 10% of the total prize money.

## 53. FINES

- 53.1 OFC reserves the right to recover fines issued under these Regulations by any available means, including by deductions from distributions to Participating Clubs.

# SECTION 14 – OWNERSHIP AND INFLUENCE

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## 54. CHANGE OF CONTROL

- 54.1 Participating Clubs shall notify OFC forthwith of any proposed change in the legal or natural person(s) who, whether individually or in concert, exercise Control of that Club.
- 54.2 A Participating Club shall comply with all information requests from OFC regarding the prospective change of Control, including for the provision of proof of identity documents, proof of the source of funds for any prospective purchaser of the Club's shares, and Future Financial Information adjusted to reflect any proposed changes that will arise from the change of Control.
- 54.3 No Participating Club shall allow any legal or natural person to acquire or exercise Control of the club without the prior written consent of OFC.
- 54.4 Failure to comply with this Article 54 shall be dealt with accordingly pursuant to the OFC Club Licensing Regulations 2025, including the imposition of appropriate sanctions.



## 55. REPORTING

55.1 Each Participating Club shall inform OFC forthwith of:

55.1.1 Any change in the identity of its Officers;

55.1.2 The commencement or acquisition of a Significant Influence in the Participating Club by any legal or natural person;

55.1.3 The cessation or disposal of any Significant Influence in the Participating Club.

## SECTION 15 – FINAL PROVISIONS

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### 56. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

56.1 OFC Professional League Department shall issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances that may arise during the Competition. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

### 57. AMENDMENTS

57.1 OFC retains the right to make any amendment to OFC Statutes, these Regulations, guidelines, circulars, and directives from time to time.

### 58. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

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

### 59. LANGUAGE

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

### 60. NO WAIVER

60.1 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.

- 60.2 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.

## 61. FORCE MAJEURE

- 61.1 Any decision in respect of whether an event of Force Majeure has occurred shall be made exclusively by the OFC General Secretariat. Such decision shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- 61.2 Where the OFC General Secretariat determines that an event of Force Majeure has occurred and is impeding the ongoing progress or operation of the Competition, it shall determine the necessary action to be taken in relation to that Force Majeure and all Participating Clubs and Officials shall comply with directions accordingly given by the OFC.

## 62. ENFORCEMENT

- 62.1 These Regulations have been approved by the OFC Executive Committee on (insert date) and come into force immediately.
- 62.2 Any previous version of these Regulations shall apply mutatis mutandis to any matters that arose before these Regulations came into force.

## For the OFC Executive Committee

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President:  
Lambert Maltock

General Secretary:  
Franck Castillo

### **Oceania Football Confederation Incorporated (OFC)**

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