



OFC
PRO LEAGUE

CLUB LICENSING REGULATIONS

EDITION 2026

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Definitions

Accounting Policies	The specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices adopted by an entity in preparing and presenting its financial statements.
Annual Financial Statements	A complete set of general purpose financial statements (to the extent local laws allow) prepared as at the Statutory Closing Date, comprising of a balance sheet, profit and loss account/income statement, a statement of changes in equity, a statement of cash flows, notes to the financial statements – including material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.
Audit	<p>An audit of financial statements is conducted with the objective of enabling the auditor to express an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework.</p> <p>The term “Audited” shall be interpreted in accordance with performing an audit under these Regulations.</p>
Budget	A budget is a formal financial plan that sets out an entity’s expected revenues, expenditures, and cash flows over a defined future period, typically a financial year. It is prepared based on management’s assumptions about future events and planned activities and serves as a forward-looking tool for planning, coordination, and control.
Club	A member of an ordinary member association (that is a full member association of FIFA), or a member of a professional league recognised by a FIFA member association that enters at least one team in a competition.
Club Licensing Criteria	The requirements applicable to the granting of Licenses to License Applicants, as set out in these Regulations, which are divided into six categories (infrastructure, sporting, personnel and administrative, legal, financial, and social responsibility & marketing).
Comet	The IT system used by OFC for the purpose of gathering information from License Applicants/Licensees.
Consolidated Financial Statement(s)	Consolidated financial statements are the financial statements of a group of entities presented as those of a single economic entity. They combine the financial position, financial performance, and cash flows of a parent entity and its subsidiaries, eliminating all intra-group balances, transactions, income, and expenses. The purpose of consolidated financial statements is to provide users with a true and fair view of the financial situation and results of the group as a whole, as if it were a single entity, rather than a collection of legally separate entities.
Control	<p>The power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity to obtain benefits from its activities. Control may be gained by share ownership, statutes, or agreement.</p> <p>The terms “Controlled” and “Controlling” shall be interpreted accordingly.</p>

	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.
Financial Year	The financial reporting period ending on the Statutory Closing Date.
Future Financial Information	As per the definition of Budget under these Regulations.
General Secretariat	As defined under the OFC Statutes, responsible for carrying out the administrative work of OFC under the direction of the General Secretary and supervised by and accountable to, the OFC Executive Committee.
Head Coach	The Head Coach is responsible for the following matters of the first team squad: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Players' selection ii. Tactics and training iii. Management of the players and technical staff in the dressing room and the technical area before, during and after matches; and iv. Duties regarding media matters (press conferences, interviews, etc.).
Licensee	License Applicant that has been granted a License by the Licensor.
Licensor	Oceania Football Confederation.
Material or Materiality	Materiality depends on the size and nature of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances or context. The size or nature of the item or information, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.
Meeting of the Club Licensing Committee	A formally convened gathering of the OFC Club Licensing Committee's members to exercise their functions and duties pursuant to these Regulations.
OFC	Oceania Football Confederation Incorporated.
OFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook	The document that provides operational and technical guidance concerning the financial criteria set out in the OFC Pro League Club Licensing Regulations.
OFC Professional League	A professional football competition organised by OFC consisting of a combination of clubs (both from within the OFC region and invited from outside the OFC region) in which Professional Players are fielded.
Parent company	An entity that has one or more subsidiaries.
Pathway Certificate	The OFC may grant the Pathway Certificate to a Club that aspire to participate in the OFC Professional League in the future. The granting of the Pathway Certificate does not, in any way, imply a license to participate in the OFC Professional League but it gives the club the possibility to be invited to participate in the application process to obtain a license in case of vacancy or an increase in the number of participants.
Registered Member	Any legal entity established according to national law and OFC Member Association statutes, which is a member of the relevant OFC Ordinary Member Association and/or its affiliated league.

Reporting Entity / Entities	A Registered Member and/or football company or Group of entities or some other combination of entities which is included in the reporting perimeter, and which must provide the Licensor with information for club licensing purposes.
Significant Influence	Ability to influence but not control financial and operating policy decision making of a 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.
Stadium	Any stadium at which a match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid OFC accreditation card or ticket is required in order to gain access) of a stadium facility inside the outer stadium perimeter fence and (on matchdays and any day on which any official training takes place within the stadium) the aerial space above such stadium premises; (ii) parking facilities; (iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village); (iv) concession areas; (v) commercial display areas; (vi) buildings; (vii) the field of play; (viii) the media tribune; (ix) any broadcast compound; (x) the stadium media centre; (xi) the press conference room; (xii) the mixed zone; (xiii) any stands; and (xiv) any areas beneath the stands.
Statutory Closing Date	The Statutory Closing Date means the annual accounting reference date of the Reporting Entity, being the date on which its Financial Year ends in accordance with applicable national law and accounting requirements.
Subsidiary	An entity, including an unincorporated entity such as a partnership that is Controlled by another entity (known as the Parent).
Training Facilities	The venue(s) at which a club's registered players undertake football training and/or youth development activities on a regular basis.

Article 1: Introduction and Scope of the Application

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

Article 2: Objectives

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

Article 3: Club Licensing Criteria

- 3.1. Subject to Article 3.2, the criteria defined in Articles 17 to 22 of these Regulations must be fulfilled by Clubs in order for them to be granted a License.

- 3.2. The criteria set out in Articles 17 to 22 are classified into categories “A”, “B”, and “C” and must be satisfied sequentially in a cascading manner:
- i. **A – Club Licensing Criteria**
Refers to mandatory criteria to be fulfilled by the License Applicant.
If the License Applicant does not fulfil any of the A - Club Licensing Criteria, then it shall not be granted a License to enter the OFC Professional League club competition.
 - ii. **B – Club Licensing Criteria**
If the License Applicant does not fulfil any of the B – Club Licensing Criteria, then it shall be sanctioned in accordance with these Regulations for non-fulfilment of these criteria. For completeness, unfulfillment of B-Club Licensing Criteria shall not prevent the OFC from granting the license to the License Applicant.
 - iii. **C – Club Licensing Criteria**
Best practice recommendation Club Licensing Criteria for License Applicants to aspire to.

Article 4: Licensor

- 4.1. The Licensor is the OFC as defined under these Regulations, which governs the OFC club licensing system for the OFC Professional League club competition.
- 4.2. The Licensor shall use the COMET system, which is the OFC’s club license system of choice.
- 4.3. The OFC governs the licensing system, appoints the licensing bodies and determines the necessary processes.

Article 5: Club Licensing and Compliance Officer

- 5.1. The Licensor must appoint an OFC Club Licensing & Compliance Officer.
- 5.2. The responsibilities of the Club Licensing and Compliance Officer include (but are not limited to):
 - a. preparing, implementing and further developing the club licensing system;
 - b. accessing and administering the COMET system;
 - c. providing training and support for the License Applicants in using COMET;
 - d. providing administrative support to the OFC Executive Committee, the OFC Licensing Committee, and the group of experts;
 - e. Liaising with the Clubs shall additional information or documents be requested during the licensing process;
 - f. assisting, advising, and monitoring the Licensees during the License Season.

- 5.3. The Club Licensing and Compliance Officer shall ensure the review processes of the License applications is performed in a consistent manner.
- 5.4. The review report and clubs' applications shall be submitted by the Club Licensing and Compliance Officer to the OFC Licensing Committee.

Article 6: OFC Club Licensing Independent Experts

- 6.1. The General Secretariat shall appoint a group of independent experts whose responsibilities include:
 - a. To review documents provided by License Applicants in accordance with the submission deadline as set by the General Secretariat;
 - b. To review the compliance of the application with the club licensing criteria;
 - c. To provide a status report on the License applications received.
- 6.2. The General Secretariat shall ensure the independent experts appointed pursuant to this Article have relevant and applicable expertise to undertake their functions under Article 6.1.
- 6.3. The experts shall be independent meaning that they shall not be an OFC staff member or official, a member of the OFC Executive Committee, OFC Judicial Body or Standing Committee or any Club affiliated to an OFC Member Association or License Applicant.

Article 7: The OFC Club Licensing Committee

- 7.1. The OFC Club Licensing Committee is an Ad-hoc Committee for the OFC Professional League established by the OFC Executive Committee.
- 7.2. The OFC Club Licensing Committee is comprised of wholly independent Members specifically not belonging to the OFC Executive Committee or any other OFC Judicial Body or Standing Committee.
- 7.3. All Members of the OFC Club Licensing Committee will be subject to the eligibility and independence criteria pursuant to the OFC Statutes and OFC Governance Regulations.
- 7.4. The OFC Club Licensing Committee is responsible for the following:
 - a. Assessing all licensing applications provided by an applicant in accordance with the submission deadline as set by the General Secretariat;
 - b. Recommending to the OFC Executive Committee as to whether an applicant has sufficed the criteria pursuant to these Regulations to be granted a License;
 - c. Recommending to the OFC Executive Committee whether an existing License should be withdrawn upon application of the General Secretariat;

- d. Deciding on any sanctions that are to be applied for non-compliance under these Regulations;
 - e. Granting an applicant a Pathway Certificate in accordance with Annex 1 of these Regulations; and
 - f. Assessing each Club against the maturity matrix, in accordance with Article 7.5 of Annex 1, and scoring accordingly for consideration of Executive Committee.
- 7.5. The following sanctions may be imposed by the OFC Club Licensing Committee for breaches of the OFC Professional League Club Licensing Regulations, irrespective of order:
- a. Warning;
 - b. Reprimand;
 - c. Fine;
 - d. Obligation to submit guarantees, undertakings and directions;
 - e. A complete or partial ban on participation in the OFC Professional League;
 - f. Referral to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee to make a decision on one of the following, irrespective of order:
 - i. Deduction of points;
 - ii. A ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
 - iii. A ban on the registration new players for one transfer window.

Article 8: OFC Executive Committee

- 8.1. The OFC Executive Committee shall be responsible for making the following decisions:
- a. whether a License should be granted to an applicant Club;
 - b. whether a License should be withdrawn from an existing Licensee based on the recommendation from the OFC Licensing Committee;
 - c. which License applicants should participate in the OFC Professional League 2027.
- 8.2. In accordance with Article 7 of these Regulations, the OFC Executive Committee will not be responsible for deciding on sanctions for non-compliance under these Regulations.
- 8.3. The OFC General Secretariat will be responsible for communicating the decisions at Article 8.1 to the Clubs in writing.

Article 9: Appeals proceedings

- 9.1. This Article governs appeals arising from decisions taken under these Regulations.
- 9.2. In accordance with Article 7 of these Regulations, only the following sanctions imposed by the OFC Licensing Committee may be appealed to the OFC Appeals Committee:
- a. a fine of more than NZD \$5,000;
 - b. a ban on participation in the OFC Professional League.

All other sanctions imposed by the OFC Licensing Committee are final and binding.

- 9.3. In accordance with Article 8 of these Regulations, only the following decisions made by the OFC Executive Committee under these Regulations may be appealed to the OFC Appeals Committee:
- a. the refusal to grant a license pursuant to Article 8 of these Regulations;
 - b. the decision to withdraw a license pursuant to Article 8 of these Regulations;
 - c. the refusal of a License Applicant to participate in the OFC Professional League 2027.
- 9.4. A party wishing to appeal decisions mentioned in this Article must file the appeal petition alongside payment of the appeal deposit pursuant to the OFC Disciplinary Code within 5 days of receipt of notification of the decision.
- 9.5. The OFC Appeal Committee will decide without delay upon the appealable matters at Articles 9.2. and 9.3. in accordance with the OFC Appeal Committee Regulations and the OFC Disciplinary Code.
- 9.6. Appeals may only be lodged by:
- a. A License Applicant who received a refusal for a License from the OFC Executive Committee;
 - b. A Licensee Club whose License has been withdrawn by the OFC Executive Committee;
 - c. A Licensee Club who has been sanctioned by the OFC Club Licensing Committee and in accordance with Article 9.2 of these Regulations;
 - d. The OFC General Secretariat.

Article 10: Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

- 10.1. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) shall be the final appellate authority under these Regulations.
- 10.2. Any party wishing to appeal an OFC Appeals Committee decision under these Regulations will be required to file the appeal brief within 5 days of receipt of notification of the decision.
- 10.3. Any proceedings before the CAS concerning these Regulations will be held in an expedited manner in accordance with the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration and with the directions issued by the CAS, including for provisional or super-provisional measures, to the explicit exclusion of any state or other court.

Article 11: The Core Process

- 11.1. The General Secretariat must define the core process for the verification of the applicable criteria for issuing Licenses.
- 11.2. The core process starts at a time defined by the General Secretariat and ends by the deadline fixed by the General Secretariat.

- 11.3. The core process consists of the following minimum key steps:
- a. distribution of the licensing documentation to the License Applicants;
 - b. return of the licensing documentation to the General Secretariat;
 - c. Review documents provided by License Applicants by the independent expert group in accordance with the submission deadline as set by the General Secretariat;
 - d. Review of the compliance of the applications with the club licensing criteria by the independent expert group;
 - e. Submission of the independent expert group's status report on the applications to the OFC Licensing Committee;
 - f. Assessment of the applications and recommendation by the OFC Licensing Committee to the Executive Committee; and
 - g. Decision by the Executive Committee.
- 11.4. The deadlines for the above key process steps will be clearly defined and communicated to the clubs concerned in a timely manner by the General Secretariat.

Article 12: Assessment Procedures

- 12.1. The General Secretariat defines the review and assessment procedures for applicants, except those defined under these Regulations for which specific assessment processes must be followed as set out therein.
- 12.2. The OFC Licensing Committee will carry out the assessment of all applications received as defined at Article 7.

Article 13: Equal Treatment and Confidentiality

- 13.1. The Licensor shall ensure equal treatment of all License Applicants during the core process.
- 13.2. The Licensor shall guarantee the License Applicants full confidentiality with regard to all information submitted during the licensing process. Anyone involved in the licensing process or appointed by the Licensor shall expressly agree to the confidentiality provisions of these Regulations before assuming their tasks.

Article 14: License Applicant

- 14.1. License Applicants shall only be the eight (8) clubs participating in the OFC Professional League edition 2026 for as long as the clubs remain a professional football club, i.e. a legal entity fully responsible for a football team participating in national, confederation and international competitions which either:

- a. is a Registered Member of an OFC Ordinary Member Association; or
 - b. a professional football club registered to a FIFA Member Association and subject to the agreement from both OFC and the Confederation the Member Association belongs to for participation in the OFC Professional League.
- 14.2. Any change to the legal form, legal Group structure (including a merger with another entity or transfer of football activities to another entity) or identity (including headquarters, name or colours) of a License Applicant during this period to the detriment of the integrity of a competition or to facilitate the License Applicant's qualification for a competition on sporting merit or its receipt of a License is deemed as an interruption of membership or contractual relationship (if any) within the Member Association.

Article 15: Responsibilities of the License Applicant

- 15.1. The License Applicant must ensure they comply with all of their obligations under these Regulations, including, but not limited to, providing the General Secretariat with:
- a. all necessary information and/or relevant documents to fully demonstrate that the licensing obligations are fulfilled; and
 - b. any other document relevant for decision-making by the General Secretariat.
- 15.2. This includes information on the Reporting Entity/Entities in respect to which sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal, financial and social responsibility and marketing information is required to be provided.
- 15.3. Any event occurring after the submission of the licensing documentation to the General Secretariat representing a Material Change to the information previously submitted must be promptly notified to the General Secretariat, especially a change of legal form, legal Group structure or identity.

Article 16: License

- 16.1. The granting of a License does not equate to automatic participation in the OFC Professional League. In accordance with Articles 7 and 8 of these Regulations, the OFC Executive Committee shall be responsible for making the decision on which applicant should be permitted to participate in the OFC Professional League 2027.
- 16.2. A License granted to a Club under these Regulations will expire without prior notice at the end of the season for which it was issued, unless otherwise expressed.
- 16.3. A License granted under these Regulations cannot be transferred.
- 16.4. A License may be withdrawn by the Licensor if:
- a. any of the conditions for the issuing of a License are not satisfied; or
 - b. the Licensee violates any of its obligations under these Regulations.

16.5. Any withdrawals of a License will follow the processes as outlined in Articles 7 and 8 of these Regulations.

Article 17: Sporting Criteria

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

S.01	2027	2028	2029
Appoint Minimum OFC or equivalent A License Head Coach	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must appoint a Head Coach with a valid coaching diploma/ license responsible for all football matters of the first team.</p> <p>The Head Coach must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) hold the Minimum Coach Education Requirement (MCER) for the OFC Professional League which is an OFC A License; or b) hold an equivalent non-OFC diploma/license duly recognized by the respective FIFA Member Association through a signed declaration and approved by the OFC Football Division in writing; or c) hold a “recognition of competence” issued by the Member Association if the coach has a minimum of five years’ practical experience as head coach at a top division club in the association for cases where the Head Coach for the first team does not have the required certification as defined under (a) above. This “recognition of competence” must be approved by the OFC Football Division; or d) already have started the required education course, recognized by OFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above. <p>The Head Coach must be duly registered with the OFC Member Association.</p> <p>For points (b) and (c) the Head Coach must as a minimum hold an OFC B License or an equivalent non-OFC diploma/license duly recognized by the respective Member Association and approved by the OFC Football Division in writing.</p>			

S.02	2027	2028	2029
Appoint Minimum OFC or equivalent C License Goalkeeping Coach	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must have appointed a qualified Goalkeeper Coach with a valid coaching diploma/license for the first team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Goalkeeper Coach must hold at least an OFC C License; or 			

- b) An equivalent non-OFC diploma/license duly recognized by the respective FIFA Member Association through a signed declaration and approved by the OFC Football Division in writing, or
- c) already have started the required education course, recognized by OFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.

S.03	2027	2028	2029
Youth Teams	A	A	A
The License Applicant must operate, or be linked to, an Academy, National Academy or FIFA TD Scheme.			

S.04	2027	2028	2029
Medical Care of Players	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant shall provide all players registered in the club to participate in the OFC Professional League with full access to medical support services.</p> <p>This shall include but not be limited to completing the OFC Pro League Pre-Competition Medical Assessment.</p> <p>The License Applicant must provide comprehensive medical insurance coverage for contracted players.</p>			

S.05	2027	2028	2029
Appoint Minimum OFC or equivalent B License Assistant Coach	C	B	B
<p>The License Applicant must appoint an Assistant Coach with a valid coaching diploma/ license responsible for assisting the Head Coach in all football matters of the first team.</p> <p>The Assistant Coach must hold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Minimum Coach Education Requirement (MCER) for the OFC Professional League which is a valid OFC B license; or b) an equivalent non-OFC diploma/license duly recognized by the respective FIFA Member Association through a signed declaration and approved by the OFC Football Division in writing; or c) Already have started the required education course, recognized by OFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above. 			

S.06	2027	2028	2029
Physical Trainer	C	C	C
<p>The License Applicant must appoint a qualified Physical Trainer responsible for the physical preparation of the players</p> <p>The Physical Trainer must have a degree in physical education.</p>			

S.07	2027	2028	2029
Youth Team Coordinator	C	C	C
<p>The License Applicant shall appoint a qualified Youth Team Coordinator responsible for the overall management and supervision of Youth Programme, handling the day-to-day administrative and technical matters of the teams.</p> <p>The Youth Team Coordinator must demonstrate experience of three (3) years in Youth Programmes and possess the certificate of the course “FIFA Guardians™ Safeguarding Essentials”.</p>			

S.08	2027	2028	2029
Youth Team Coach	C	C	C
<p>The License Applicant must appoint a Youth Team Coach for each youth team category, each of whom being responsible for the football-related matter of their respective category.</p> <p>The Youth Team Coach must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Hold a valid OFC Youth C License; or b) An equivalent foreign non-OFC license duly recognized by the respective FIFA Member Association through a signed declaration and approved by the OFC Football Division in writing, or c) Already have started the required education course, recognized by OFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above. <p>The Youth Coach must be duly registered with the OFC Member Association.</p>			

S.09	2027	2028	2029
Youth Team Goalkeeping Coach	C	C	C
<p>The License Applicant must appoint Youth Team Goalkeeping Coach for each category with a valid coaching diploma/ license for youth teams.</p>			

The Youth Team Goalkeeping Coach must:

- a) Hold OFC C License; or
- b) An equivalent foreign non-OFC license duly recognized by the respective FIFA Member Association through a signed declaration and approved by the OFC Football Division in writing; or
- c) Already have started the required education course, recognized by OFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.

Article 18: Infrastructure Criteria

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

I.01	2027	2028	2029
Approved Stadium / Sports Ground for OFC Competition	C	C	C
<p>The License Applicant must have a Stadium available to play OFC Professional League competition.</p> <p>The License Applicant either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) owns the Stadium; or b) can provide a written contract with the owner of the Stadium it will use. <p>This contract must guarantee the use of the Stadium for the OFC Professional League matches for the coming season.</p> <p>The Stadium must meet the requirements expressly referred to by the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 'Requirements to Host OFC Competitions & Matches', and b) respective OFC Professional League club competition regulations. <p>If the License Applicant becomes responsible to host home matches in future editions of the OFC Professional league, this criterion will become upgraded to 'A'.</p>			

I.02	2027	2028	2029
Emergency Exit Plan and Security Plan	C	C	C
<p>All venues must have an Emergency Exit Plan and a Security Plan. Both the Emergency Exit Plan and Security Plan must comply with national/local law as well as the applicable FIFA</p>			

and/or OFC Regulations and be clearly displayed at all points of entry and exit as well as other strategic points around the venue.

If the License Applicant becomes responsible to host home matches in future editions of the OFC Professional League, this criteria will be upgraded to 'A'.

I.03	2027	2028	2029
Venue Ground Rules	C	C	C
<p>The venues must issue venue ground rules and affix them to the venue in such a way that the spectators can read them. These rules must provide information on at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) admission rights. b) description of prohibitions and penalties, such as entering the field of play, throwing objects, use of foul or abusive language, racist behaviour, etc.; c) restrictions regarding alcohol, fireworks, banners, etc.; and d) causes for ejection from the ground. <p>If the License Applicant becomes responsible to host home matches in future editions of the OFC Professional League, this criteria will be upgraded to 'A'</p>			

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

Article 19: Personnel and Administrative Criteria

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

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

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

P.01	2027	2028	2029
Club Secretariat	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must have an office space sufficiently spacious to run its administration with the required infrastructure.</p> <p>It must ensure that its office is open to communicate with the Licensor and the public and that it is equipped, as a minimum, with phone, internet and email facilities.</p>			

P.02	2027	2028	2029
CEO/General Manager/Operations Manager	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must have appointed a person responsible for running its daily business (operational matters), namely the CEO/General Manager/Operations Manager.</p> <p>The CEO/General Manager/Operations Manager must hold as a minimum bachelor's degree and/or experience of three (3) years in sports administration.</p> <p>The appointment must have been done by the appropriate body (e.g. Executive Board) of the License Applicant.</p>			

P.03	2027	2028	2029
Finance Officer / Partner Organisation	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must have appointed a qualified Finance Officer / Contracted Service Provider who is responsible for its financial matters.</p> <p>The Finance Officer / Partner Organisation must hold as a minimum one of the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a degree in accountancy, finance or related field; or b) a recognition of competence issued by an organisation recognised by the Licensor 			

P.04	2027	2028	2029
Safety and Security Officer	C	C	C
<p>The License Applicant must have appointed a qualified Safety and Security Officer being responsible for safety and security matters.</p> <p>The Safety and Security Officer must hold as a minimum one of the following qualifications:</p>			

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

If the License Applicant becomes responsible to host home matches in future editions of the OFC Professional League, this criterion will be upgraded to 'A'.

P.05	2027	2028	2029
Communications Officer	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must have appointed a qualified Communications Officer being responsible for media and social media matters.</p> <p>The club must create, maintain and constantly update at least three social media channels and a club website. All club staff must have an email address which reflects the club website domain name.</p> <p>The Communications Officer must hold as a minimum one of the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) diploma in a relevant subject; b) concluded a media officer education course provided by the OFC, OFC Member Association or an organisation recognised by the OFC Member Association; or c) a recognition of competence approved by the OFC Member Association, which requires at least one (1) year experience in such matters. 			

P.06	2027	2028	2029
Team Doctor / Service Provider	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must have appointed at least one doctor / Service Provider who is responsible for medical support during matches and training as well as for doping prevention.</p> <p>The qualification of the Medical Doctor / Service Provider must be recognised by the appropriate national health authorities.</p> <p>From the year 2028 onwards, the Medical Doctor must have completed the Team Care module of the FIFA Diploma in Football Medicine.</p>			

P.07	2027	2028	2029
Physiotherapist	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must have appointed at least one (1) Physiotherapist responsible for medical treatment and massages for the first squad during training sessions and matches.</p> <p>The qualification of the Physiotherapist must be recognised by the appropriate national health authorities.</p>			

P.08	2027	2028	2029
Marketing Officer	A	A	A
<p>The club must have appointed a Marketing Officer who is responsible for its marketing activities.</p> <p>The Marketing Officer must hold as a minimum one of the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) diploma or similar in marketing, or a professional qualification in marketing; b) concluded a training course which includes an element related to marketing provided by the OFC, OFC Member Association or an organisation recognised by the OFC Member Association; or c) a recognition of competence approved by the OFC Member Association, which requires at least one (1) year experience in such matters. 			

P.09	2027	2028	2029
Team Manager	A	A	A
<p>The club must appoint a Team Manager who is responsible for coordinating all logistics for the first team to participate in the OFC Professional League, as well as day-to-day support for the players and coaches of the first team. Should the club be in a country that will host a round of the OFC Professional League Circuit Series, the Team Manager will be responsible for supporting visiting team(s) for the duration of their stay in the country in collaboration with the OFC.</p>			

P.10	2027	2028	2029
Safety and Security Organisation - Stewarding	C	C	C
<p>The License Applicant must have engaged stewards to ensure safety and security at home matches.</p> <p>For this purpose, it must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) employ the stewards; or 			

b) conclude a written contract with the Stadium / Sports Ground owner providing the stewards; or an external security company providing stewards

If the License Applicant becomes responsible to host home matches in future editions of the OFC Professional League, this criterion will be upgraded to 'A'.

P.11	2027	2028	2029
Rights, Responsibilities and Duties	A	A	A
The rights, responsibilities and duties of the License Applicant's personnel mentioned in these Regulations must be defined in writing.			

P.12	2027	2028	2029
Duty of Replacement During the Licensing Season	A	A	A
<p>If a function defined in these Regulations becomes vacant during the season, the Licensee must ensure that, within a period of a maximum of thirty (30) days, the function is taken over by someone who holds the required qualification.</p> <p>If a function becomes vacant due to illness or accident, the Licensor may grant an extension to the thirty (30) day period only if reasonably satisfied that the person concerned is still medically unfit to resume duties.</p> <p>The occurrence of vacancy and replacement must be notified to the Licensor within seven (7) working days of the respective event.</p>			

P.13	2027	2028	2029
Legal Advisor / Service Provider	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must appoint a qualified legal advisor who is responsible for handling all legal matters in the License Applicant's activities.</p> <p>The legal advisor shall have the necessary legal qualifications.</p>			

P. 14	2027	2028	2029
Safeguarding Officer	A	A	A
<p>In line with the OFC principles and with National Laws, the License Applicant must have appointed a qualified Safeguarding Officer with clear roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Officer must have a Certificate proving completion of the course "FIFA Guardians™ Safeguarding Essentials" or any FIFA Guardian high level of Safeguarding learning such as FIFA Guardian Diploma/Social worker background.</p>			

Article 20: Legal Criteria

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

L.01	2027	2028	2029
Declaration in Respect of the Participation in OFC Club Competition(s)	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must submit a legally valid declaration confirming that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) it recognises as legally binding the statutes, rules and regulations and decisions of FIFA, the OFC and its OFC Member Association as well as the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne as provided in the relevant articles of the OFC Statutes. b) it recognises the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (domiciled in Lausanne, Switzerland) for any dispute of international dimension and in particular involving FIFA and/or the OFC. c) it recognises the prohibition on recourse to ordinary courts under the FIFA and OFC Statutes. d) at confederation level it will play in competitions that are recognised and endorsed by the OFC (e.g. OFC Professional League). e) at international level, it will participate in competitions recognised and endorsed by the OFC and/or FIFA. To avoid any doubt, this provision does not relate to friendly matches. f) it will abide by and observe the provisions and conditions of the OFC Professional League Club Licensing Regulations. g) its reporting perimeter is defined in accordance with these Regulations, and it will be accountable for any consequences of an entity included in the reporting perimeter not abiding by and observing this declaration. h) all submitted documents are complete and correct i) it authorises the Licensor to examine documents and seek information and, in the event of any appeal procedure, to seek information from any relevant public authority or private body according to national law; and j) it acknowledges that OFC reserves the right to execute compliance audits at Confederation. <p>This declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three (3) months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to the Licensor.</p>			

L.02	2027	2028	2029
Legal Documents	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must submit the following certified documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a copy of its current company articles, constitution, statutes or similar- type governing document; b) an extract from a public register (e.g. trade register) which demonstrates that the License Applicant is a legal entity which contains the following minimum information; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. registered name; ii. popular name; iii. address of headquarters; iv. legal form; v. list of authorised signatories and; vi. type of signature (e.g. individual, collective). <p>If the extract from a public register does not contain the information (v) and (vi) required above, the License Applicant must submit this information separately, identifying who is authorized to sign for the License Applicant and type of signature.</p> <p>The License Applicant must also provide a list of shareholders, including each shareholder's percentage of ownership, and a list of board members.</p>			

L.03	2027	2028	2029
Ownership and Control of Clubs	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must submit a legally valid declaration outlining the ownership structure and control mechanism of the club.</p> <p>Such declaration should ensure conformity with the conditions set out below. No natural or legal person involved in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of the club, either directly or indirectly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) holds or deals in the securities or shares that allows such person to exercise Significant Influence in the activities of any other club participating OFC Professional League; b) holds a majority of the shareholders' voting rights of any other club participating in the OFC Professional League; c) has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management or supervisory body of any other club participating in the OFC Professional League; d) is a shareholder and alone Controls a majority of the shareholders' voting rights of any other club participating in the same competition pursuant to an agreement entered into with other shareholders of the club in question; e) is a member of any other club participating in the same competition; 			

- f) is involved in any capacity whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other club participating in the same competition; and
- g) has any power whatsoever over the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other club participating in the OFC Professional League.

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

L.04	2027	2028	2029
Written Contract with Players	A	A	A
<p>The professional players of the License Applicant must have a written contract with the License Applicant in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players and shall incorporate all key provisions required by the relevant national law and of FIFA, the OFC, and the OFC Member Association.</p>			

L.05	2027	2028	2029
Disciplinary Procedure and Code of Conduct for Players and Officials	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant shall establish a legally binding code of conduct for players and officials in compliance with the relevant national law, and the Statutes and applicable Regulations of FIFA, the OFC, and the relevant Member Association, including the FIFA and OFC Code of Ethics and Disciplinary Codes</p> <p>The code of conduct should be supplemented by a legally binding disciplinary regulation under which the infringement of the code of conduct, club rules, club regulations, and club decisions shall be prosecuted, and sanctions may be applied.</p> <p>The License Applicant must demonstrate that players and officials are aware of the Code of Conduct and its disciplinary regulations.</p>			

Article 21: Financial Criteria

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

Reporting Entity/Entities and reporting perimeter

- 21.2. The License Applicant determines and provides to the Licensor the reporting perimeter, i.e. the entity or combination of entities in respect of which financial information (e.g. single entity, consolidated or combined financial statements) has to be provided.

- a) The reporting perimeter must include:
 - i. the License Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of the OFC Member Association;
 - ii. any Subsidiary of the License Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of the OFC Member Association;
 - iii. Any other entity included in the legal Group structure that generates revenues and/or performs services and/or incurs costs with respect to the football activities defined in paragraph b) iii. to ix. below;
 - iv. any entity, irrespective of whether it is included in the legal Group structure, which generates revenues and/or performs services and/or incurs costs in respect of football activities as defined in paragraph b) i. and ii. below.

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

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

 - d) The Licence Applicant must submit a declaration by an authorised signatory which confirms:
 - i. that all revenues and costs related to each of the football activities indicated in paragraph c). have been included in the reporting perimeter and provide a detailed explanation should this not be the case; and
 - ii. whether any entity included in the legal Group structure has been excluded from the reporting perimeter, justifying any such exclusion with reference to paragraph c)
- 21.3. For further information on the mandatory reporting period, the minimum requirements on the format of reporting and accounting, and a detailed explanation of each of the criteria below, please refer to the OFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook.

F.01	2027	2028	2029
Bank Account in Name of Club	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must submit documented evidence that the club holds a dedicated bank account, in the club / organisations name. This account must be within the territory of the Member Association (MA) and must be the primary account for club financial matters. Offshore accounts are not permitted.</p>			

F.02	2027	2028	2029
Submission of Four-Year Budget – Future Financial Information	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must submit its Budget before the start of the season. It should state the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) projected income for the coming four Financial Years; b) projected expenditure for the coming four Financial Years; c) all the sources of revenues (including sponsorship agreements) and income projected for the coming Financial Year along with the amount; and d) all the sources of expenditures projected for the coming Financial Year along with the amount. <p>The Budget shall meet the minimum disclosure requirements and accounting principles set out in the OFC Professional League Club Licensing Financial Handbook.</p> <p>The License Applicant must provide information of income for the coming four financial years, should the Licensor request confirmation of the assumptions made in the Budget.</p>			

F.03	2027	2028	2029
Financial Statements for the Interim Period ending 31 May 2026	B	A	A
<p>If the Statutory Closing Date of the License Applicant is more than six (6) months before the meeting of the Club Licensing Committee, then the License Applicant shall prepare and submit additional financial statements covering the Interim Period.</p> <p>If the Financial Statements for the Interim Period are prepared and submitted, they should cover the interim period up to 31 May 2026 and including, as a minimum, six months preceding the 31 May 2026.</p> <p>The Interim Financial Statements shall meet the minimum disclosure requirements and accounting principles set out in the OFC Professional League Club Licensing Financial Handbook.</p>			

F.04	2027	2028	2029
Annual Financial Statements – Audited	B	A	A
<p>Regardless of the legal structure of the License Applicant, Annual Financial Statements based on IFRS or the local legislation shall be prepared and Audited by an independent auditor.</p> <p>The Audited Annual Financial Statement shall be in respect of the Statutory Closing Date immediately prior to the deadline for submission of the Finance Criteria to OFC and must consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a balance sheet; b) a profit and loss account; c) a cash flow statement; d) notes, comprising a summary of significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory notes; and e) a financial Review by management. <p>The Audited Annual Financial Statements shall meet the minimum disclosure requirements and accounting principles set out in the OFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook, which will adhere to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA).</p> <p>If the Audited Annual Financial Statements do not meet the minimum disclosure requirements and accounting principles set out in the OFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook, then Supplementary Information must be prepared by the License Applicant and assessed by the auditor.</p>			

F.05	2027	2028	2029
No Overdue Payables Towards Employees and Service Providers	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must prove that, in respect of contractual and legal obligations with its current/former employees it has no overdue payables.</p> <p>The term “employees” shall include but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) all professional players according to the applicable FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players; and b) the administrative, technical, medical and security staff specified in the OFC Club License Regulations. c) The License Applicant must also prove that, in respect of contractual and legal obligations with its current/former service providers, it has no overdue payables. 			

F.06	2027	2028	2029
No Overdue Payables Towards Social and Tax Authorities	B	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must prove that has no overdue payments related to social and tax authorities.</p> <p>For this purpose, the License Applicant must provide an official certificate, such as the Tax and Social Clearance Certificate, or similar legal document, issued by the local authorities.</p>			

F.07	2027	2028	2029
Duty to Notify Subsequent Events	A	A	A
<p>Following the licensing decision by the decision-making body, the Licensee must within seven (7) days notify the Licensor in writing about any Subsequent Events that may cast significant doubt upon the Licensee's ability to continue as a Going Concern until at least the end of the season for which the License has been granted.</p> <p>Compliance with this criterion shall be assessed by the Licensor in respect of the following licensing cycle.</p>			

F.08	2027	2028	2029
Duty to Update Future Financial Information	A	A	A
<p>If the Licensee is in breach of one or more of the below indicators, then the Licensee must prepare and submit an updated version of the 4-year Budget - Future Financial Information (prepared according to F.02). In addition, the prepared information shall include a comparison of Budget to actual figures including explanations of variances. The updated version of the Future Financial Information must be prepared, as a minimum, on a six (6) month basis.</p> <p><i>Indicator 1: Going concern</i> The auditor's report in respect of the Annual Financial Statements submitted in accordance with F.04 includes an emphasis of matter or a qualified opinion/ conclusion in respect of Going Concern.</p> <p><i>Indicator 2: Negative equity</i> The Annual Financial Statements (including, where required, the Supplementary Information) submitted in accordance with F.04 disclose a net liabilities position that has deteriorated relative to the comparative figure contained in the previous year's Annual Financial Statements.</p> <p>The updated Future Financial Information shall meet the minimum disclosure requirements set out in the OFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook.</p> <p>Compliance with this criterion shall be assessed by the Licensor in respect of the following licensing cycle.</p>			

Article 22: Social Responsibility and Marketing Criteria

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

SRM.01	2027	2028	2029
Social Campaign	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant to establish strategies and implementation programmes to promote the club, the game and to address current issues in football and society.</p> <p>Support should be provided for initiatives and campaigns to implement strategies and programmes as promulgated by either the License Applicant, the OFC Member Association, OFC and FIFA.</p>			

SRM.02	2027	2028	2029
Yearly Calendar of Events	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must provide evidence of a Yearly Calendar of Events related to all Community Football Activities.</p>			

SRM.03	2027	2028	2029
Safeguarding Plan	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must present a safeguarding plan in line with any relevant OFC policies outlining which prevention, reporting and response measure are in place and actively implemented to protect and safeguard from potential abuses and to promote their wellbeing within football when participating in activities organised by the License Applicant.</p>			

SRM.04	2027	2028	2029
Sport Integrity Plan	A	A	A
<p>The License Applicant must provide full details of the Clubs Sport Integrity Plan. These can include Anti-Corruption, Betting and Anti-Discrimination.</p>			

SRM.05	2027	2028	2029
Marketing and Commercial Plan	A	A	A
<p>License Applicant Club must provide a four-year plan, with clearly defined objectives and goals, that maximises revenues and exposure for the club over the coming seasons of the OFC Professional League.</p>			

Article 23: Final Provisions

23.1. Authoritative text and language of correspondence

- 23.1.1. All correspondence between the OFC and the Licensor and/or the Licensee must be in the recognised languages of OFC, being English or French. The OFC may ask the Licensee for a certified translation of documents at their expense.
- 23.1.2. These Regulations shall be implemented according to the OFC Statutes, OFC Disciplinary Code, OFC Code of Ethics and any other applicable OFC regulations.
- 23.1.3. In case of any discrepancy between these Regulations and any applicable OFC regulations, these Regulations shall prevail.
- 23.1.4. The headings used for the various Parts, Sections, and Articles of these Regulations are for convenience only. They shall not be deemed part of the substance of these Regulations or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.
- 23.1.5. These Regulations shall be issued in English. If these Regulations are translated into another language, the English version issued by the OFC shall prevail.

23.2. Annexes

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

23.3. Compliance Audits

- 23.3.1. The OFC and/or its nominated bodies/agencies reserve the right to, at any time, conduct compliance audits of the License Applicant/ Licensee.
- 23.3.2. Compliance audits aim to ensure that the License Applicant/ Licensee have fulfilled their obligations as defined in these Regulations and that the License was correctly awarded at the time of the final decision of the Licensor.
- 23.3.3. Non-cooperation of the Licensee shall be referred to the OFC Club Licensing Committee for appropriate action.

23.4. Communications

- 23.4.1 Any official communication and supporting documents related to any matter of these Regulations must be sent to club.licensing@oceaniafootball.com. The OFC will only consider communications and documents sent to this email address as valid and official.

23.5. Implementing Provisions

- 23.5.1 The OFC General Secretariat shall take the decisions and adopt, in the form of directives, the detailed provisions necessary for implementing these Regulations.

23.5.2. The OFC reserves the right to make amendments to any part of these Regulations for any reason whatsoever. Such amendments shall be duly communicated in due course.

23.6. Matters Not Provided For

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

23.7. Enforcement

23.7.1. These Regulations were approved by the OFC Executive Committee on 28th May 2026 and came into force immediately.

23.7.2. These Regulations shall be applicable for the granting of Licenses to participate in the OFC Professional League 2027 onwards.

For the OFC Executive Committee

President:

Lambert Maltock

Acting General Secretary:

Frederic Guillemont

ANNEX 1

OFC Professional League Pathway Certificate

The OFC may grant the Pathway Certificate to a Club that aspires to participate in the OFC Professional League in the future. The granting of the Pathway Certificate does not, in any way, imply the granting of a license to participate in the OFC Professional League but it gives the club the possibility to participate in the application process to obtain a license in the case of a vacancy or in the event OFC decides to expand the number of participant clubs in the OFC Professional League.

A Pathway Certificate is valid for one season of the OFC Professional League. A club granted a Pathway Certificate will be required to apply for a certificate for every season of the OFC Professional League.

Article 1. Eligibility

1. All clubs from OFC Ordinary Member Associations that aspire to participate in the OFC Professional League.
2. Article 7.2 governs the Pathway Certificate process for Clubs considering applying for a Pathway Certificate and defines how clubs holding a Pathway Certificate shall be invited to apply for a Club License.

Article 2. Expression of interest

1. Clubs shall express their interest in obtaining a Pathway Certificate for the OFC Professional League by submitting a written letter to the OFC General Secretariat signed by the club's President, or Chairperson, no later than 9th June 2026.
2. In this letter, the Club must:
 - i) identify an individual with legal authority to represent the Club, together with their contact details, for example, the CEO or General Manager of the Club at the time of submission; and
 - ii) demonstrate that it is duly affiliated with its respective Member Association by submitting an official document from the Member Association attesting the affiliation and its support for the club's aspiration to obtain the OFC Pathway Certificate.
3. Once the above-mentioned is fulfilled, Clubs may be considered by the OFC General Secretariat to be invited to apply for a Pathway Certificate for the OFC Professional league.

Article 3: Application

1. The applicant club must submit by the deadline prescribed by the OFC, all necessary documentation demonstrating their compliance to the following Club Licensing criteria pursuant to these Regulations:

S.03 – Youth Programme

I.04 – Training Ground

P.01 – Club Secretariat

P.02 – CEO / General Manager / Operations Manager

P.03 – Finance Officer / Partner Organization

L.01 – Declaration in Respect of the Participation in OFC Club Competition(s)

L.02 – Legal Documents

L.03 – Ownership and Control of Clubs

F.01 – Bank Account in the Name of Club

F.02 – Submission of Four-Year Budget – Future Financial Information

2. These are mandatory criteria to be fulfilled by the Pathway Certificate Applicant. If the Applicant does not fulfil any of these Criteria, then it shall not be granted a Pathway Certificate.

Article 4: Grantor of the certificate

1. The grantor of the certificate is the OFC Licensing Committee.
2. The OFC governs the pathway certificate system, appoints the licensing bodies and determines the necessary processes.

Article 5: Club Licensing and Compliance Officer.

1. The responsibilities of the Club Licensing and Compliance Officer include (but not limited to):
 - a. preparing, implementing and further developing the pathway certificate system;
 - b. providing administrative support to the decision-making bodies, the OFC Licensing Committee, and the group of experts;
 - c. Liaising with the clubs should additional information or documents be requested during the Pathway Certificate process;
 - d. assisting, advising, and monitoring the applicants during the certificate Season.

2. The group of independent experts identified in article 6 of these Regulations shall:
 - a. Review all documents provided by Pathway Certificate applicants in accordance with the submission deadline as set by the General Secretariat;
 - b. Review the compliance of the applications with the club licensing criteria identified Article 3 of this Annex; and
 - c. Provide a status report on the Pathway Certificate applications received.
3. The Club Licensing and Compliance Officer shall ensure the review processes of the Pathway Certificate applications is performed in a consistent manner.
4. The review report and clubs' applications shall be submitted by the Licensing and Compliance Officer to the OFC Licensing Committee.

Article 6: The OFC Licensing Committee

1. The OFC Licensing Committee will be responsible for the following:
 - a. Assessing all Pathway Certificate application provided by an applicant in accordance with the submission deadline as set by the Licensor;
 - b. Determine whether an applicant has sufficed the criteria to be granted a Pathway Certificate;
 - c. Upon the fulfilment of Article 6.1.b of this Annex, grant an applicant the Pathway Certificate; and
 - d. In the event of competing applicants, pursuant to Article 7.5 of this Annex, who have sufficed the minimum criteria under these Regulations, which applicant is recommended to participate in the OFC Professional League 2027.
2. All decisions made by the OFC Licensing Committee pursuant to this Article will be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

Article 7: Club Licensing

1. Only clubs granted a Pathway certificate may be invited by the Licensor to apply for a club license under these Regulations should a vacancy occur or the OFC decides to expand the number of clubs participating on the OFC Professional league. The decision of the Licensor to invite clubs shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.
2. Clubs will be invited based on the following cascading priorities:
 - a. As a first priority, Clubs whose respective Member Association is not represented in the OFC Professional League at the point at which the invitation to apply is being made will be permitted to apply for the OFC Pathway Certificate.
 - b. As a second priority, clubs from OFC Ordinary Member Associations where only one club is participating in the OFC Professional League.
 - c. As a third priority, any of the other clubs holding a Pathway Certificate affiliated to an OFC Ordinary Member Association.

3. For the avoidance of doubt, invitations shall first be offered to eligible clubs within the category set out in paragraph 2.i.. Where vacancies remain following completion of that process, invitations may then be offered to eligible clubs within paragraph 2.ii., and thereafter to eligible clubs within paragraph 2.iii., until all available places have been allocated.
4. OFC Ordinary Member Associations shall not be represented by more than two clubs in the OFC Professional League. Therefore, obtaining a Pathway Certificate does not provide a right to apply for a club license under these Regulations.
5. Respecting the aforementioned priorities in this Annex (Article1 – Eligibility), if two or more clubs holding the Pathway Certificate are invited by the OFC to participate in the licensing process for the OFC Professional League and meet the criteria set out in the Licensing Regulations, the license will be granted to the Club that obtains the highest score in the OFC Maturity Matrix (Annex 1.1).

ANNEX 1.1

MATURITY MATRIX

Criteria code	Criteria level	Criteria details	A-Criteria			B-Criteria			C-Criteria			Allocated score
			Submission	1	3	Submission	2	3	Submission	2	3	
S01	A	Appoint Minimum OFC or equivalent A Licence Head Coach	Certificate license	Copy of valid B license with the recognition of competence	Copy of valid B license or above							
			Contract	Signed contract until the end of the 2027 spring season	Signed contract until the end of 2028 or beyond							
S02	A	Appoint Minimum OFC or equivalent D/C or equivalent Goalkeeping Coach	CV	CV showing less than 3 years of relevant coaching experience	CV showing more than 3 years of relevant coaching experience							
			Contract	Signed contract until the end of the 2027 spring season	Signed contract until the end of 2028 or beyond							
S03	A	Youth Teams	2) Employment / partnership record to youth academy	Club has been, or partner with, an academy with at least one youth team	Club has been, or partner with, an academy with 2 or more age group teams (including U18 team)							
S04	A	Medical Care of Players (contracted players)	Insurance policy	1) Certificate of Currency (policy summary) for medical insurance 2) Policy document	1) The club has a contract with a private insurance company not relying on the government insurance benefit offered by some countries to employees who have an employment contract 2) The insurance policy for players extends beyond medical and dental coverage when a player is unavailable due to injury							
			Certificate license	Copy of valid B license	Copy of valid B license							
S05	C	Appoint Minimum OFC or equivalent B Licence Assistant Coach	Contract	Signed contract until the end of the 2028 spring season	Signed contract until the end of 2028 or beyond							
			CV form	CV showing less than 3 years of relevant coaching experience	CV showing more than 3 years of relevant coaching experience							
S06	C	Physical Trainer	Contract	Signed contract until the end of the 2028 spring season	Signed contract until the end of 2028 or beyond							
			CV form	CV showing less than 3 years of relevant experience	CV showing more than 3 years of relevant experience							
S07	C	Youth Team Coordinator	Certificate license	IFA Coaches Safeguarding Certificate	IFA Coaches Safeguarding Certificate							
			Contract	Signed contract until the end of the 2028 spring season	Signed contract until the end of 2028 or beyond							
S08	C	Youth Team Coach	Contract	Signed contract until the end of the 2028 spring season	Signed contract until the end of 2028 or beyond							
			CV form	CV showing less than 3 years of relevant coaching experience	CV showing more than 3 years of relevant coaching experience							
S09	C	Youth Team Goalkeeping Coach	Certificate license	Copy of valid C license	Copy of valid C license plus additional GK coaching qualifications							
			Contract	Signed contract until the end of the 2028 spring season	Signed contract until the end of 2028 or beyond							
			CV form	CV showing less than 3 years of relevant coaching experience	CV showing more than 3 years of relevant coaching experience							

SPORTING CRITERIA

Criteria code	Criteria level	Criteria details	A-Criteria		B-Criteria		C-Criteria		Allocated score
			Submission	1	2	3	Submission	2	
I01	C	Approved Stadium Services Ground for OFC Completion							
I02	C	Emergency Exit Plan and Security Plan							
I03	C	Venue Ground Rules							
I04	A	Training Ground							

Criteria code	Criteria level	Criteria details	Submission	1	2	3	Submission	2	3	Allocated score
		Approved Stadium Services Ground for OFC Completion								
		Emergency Exit Plan and Security Plan								
		Venue Ground Rules								
		Training Ground								

INFRASTRUCTURE CRITERIA

Criteria code	Criteria level	Criteria details	A-Criteria			B-Criteria			Allocated score
			Submission	1	3	Submission	2	3	
P01	A	Club Secretariat Contract Address Phone number Contract email Contract	Club has office to meet the needs of Club Licensing for all levels of play. All details provided	Club has an office beyond the Club Licensing requirements and Level 3 Area					
P02	A	CEO/General Manager/Operations Manager Qualifications CV form Contract	Signor contract until the end of the sporting season 2027 Bachelor degree and/or experience in sports administration or related field of study Minimum of 3 years experience sports administration Signor contract until the end of the sporting season 2027	Rolling on multi-year contract, signed Has a master degree in sports administration or related field of study Has over 3 years relevant experience Rolling on multi-year contract, signed					
P03	A	Finance Officer / Partner Organisation Qualifications (over 6 company)	Qualified (with accounting certification) and has up to three years relevant experience	Qualified (with accounting certification) and has over three years relevant experience					
P04	C	Safety and Security Officer Contract Qualifications CV form Website Email/Address with the club domain name Social media channels	Signor contract until the end of the sporting season 2027 Qualified and has up to three years relevant experience Has an up-to-date website with at least club info, player info, fixtures and contact information All user staff has an email address Has three operational social media channels each with a combined following of at least 10,000	Rolling on multi-year contract, signed Qualified and has over three years relevant experience Website frequently updated and has more functions than other clubs Has three operational social media channels each with a combined following of more than 10,000 Rolling on multi-year contract, signed	Signor contract until the end of the sporting season 2027 Experience police officers, security guard or other similar role In addition, has safety & security experience in sporting or other major events				
P05	A	Team Doctor / Service Provider Contract Qualifications CV form	Signor contract until the end of the sporting season 2027 Qualified (period of current medical qualifications) and has up to three years relevant experience	Rolling on multi-year contract, signed Qualified (period of current medical qualifications) and has completed the Team Care module of their RPL Diploma in Football Medicine Rolling on multi-year contract, signed					
P06	A	Physiotherapist Contract Qualifications CV form	Signor contract until the end of the sporting season 2027 Qualified (period of current physiotherapy qualifications) and has up to three years relevant experience	Rolling on multi-year contract, signed Qualified (period of current physiotherapy qualifications) and has over three years relevant experience					
P07	A	Marketing Officer Contract Qualifications CV form	Signor contract until the end of the sporting season 2027 Qualified and has up to three years relevant experience	Rolling on multi-year contract, signed Qualified and has over three years relevant experience					
P08	A	Team Manager Contract Qualifications CV form	Signor contract until the end of the sporting season 2027 Qualified and has up to three years relevant experience	Rolling on multi-year contract, signed Qualified and has over three years relevant experience					
P09	C	Safety and Security Organisation - Stewarding Rights, Responsibilities and Duties Duty of Care Contract Qualifications (over 6 company)	Signor contract until the end of the sporting season 2027 Qualified and has up to three years relevant experience	Rolling on multi-year contract, signed Qualified and has over three years relevant experience					
P10	A	Legal Advisor / Service Provider Contract Qualifications (over 6 company)	Signor contract until the end of the sporting season 2027 Qualified and has up to three years relevant experience	Rolling on multi-year contract, signed Qualified and has over three years relevant experience					
P11	A	Safeguarding Officer Contract Qualifications	Signor contract until the end of the sporting season 2027 Completed the course - TM Courthouse Safeguarding Essentials or any FFA Courthouse High Level of Safeguarding in Football Referee	Rolling on multi-year contract, signed Has completed the Team Care module of their RPL Diploma in Football Referee					

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CRITERIA

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CRITERIA

Criteria code	Criteria level	Criteria details	A-Criteria			B-Criteria			C-Criteria			Allocated score
			Submission	3	1	Submission	2	3	Submission	2	3	
L01	A	Declaration in Respect of the OFC Club Competitions - with 3 months of preparation with deadline	Template	Template signed off by authorised signatory								
L02	A	Legal Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company articles, constitution, statutes or similar governing document. Meets minimum requirements Extracts: public rights with minimum information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. register name; ii. purpose name; iii. objectives; iv. list of authorised signatories and types of signatories (e.g. individuals, collectively); list of authorised signatories (percentage of ownership) and list of board members Meets minimum requirements 									
L03	A	Ownership and Control of Clubs - with 3 months of preparation with deadline	Template	Template signed off by authorised signatory								
L04	A	Written Contract with Players	Up to 25 player contracts									
L05	A	Disciplinary Procedure and Code of Conduct for Players and Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved Code of Conduct Club provides a clearly defined Code of Conduct to all players and demonstrates that players and officials are aware Club provides a clear, fair and transparent approach to disciplinary through its rules and demonstrates that players and officials are aware 									

LEGAL CRITERIA

Criteria code	Criteria level	Criteria details	A-Criteria			B-Criteria			C-Criteria			Allocated score
			Submission	3	1	Submission	2	3	Submission	2	3	
F01	A	Bank Account in Name of Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official document from bank Statement or official letter from bank Account clearly in the club's name 									
F02	A	Submission of a 4 years Budget - Future Financial Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget signed off by CEO and Board 11-4 year budget documents, with signatories Budget remains strong financial position across the two years Club provides clear or compact from sponsors, government, donors or other reliable sources that guarantee the club stability for 2027 season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11-4 year budget documents, with signatories 21 Loan/endorsement for projections Club has budget that makes use the justified and illustrates government, donors or other reliable sources that guarantee the club stability for 2027 season. 								
F03	B	Financial Statements for the Interim Period ending May 31 2026	Annual Financial Statements - Audited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club has audited financial statements for the last financial year 								
F04	B	Annual Financial Statements - Audited	Annual Financial Statements - Audited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club has audited financial statements for the last financial year 								
F05	A	No Overdue Payables towards Employees and Service Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club can illustrate that it has no overdue payables to employees and service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club can illustrate that it has no overdue payables to employees and service providers 								
F06	B	Payables towards Social / Tax Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club can illustrate that it has no overdue payables to social and tax authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club can illustrate that it has no overdue payables to social and tax authorities 								
F07	A	Duty to Body Subsequent Events - within 7 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club can illustrate that it has no overdue payables to social and tax authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club can illustrate that it has no overdue payables to social and tax authorities 								
F08	A	Duty to Update Future Financial Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club can illustrate that it has no overdue payables to social and tax authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club can illustrate that it has no overdue payables to social and tax authorities 								
Art. 21.2. d)	A	Declaration - reporting guideline	Template signed off by authorised signatory									

FINANCIAL CRITERIA

Criteria code	Criteria level	Criteria details	Criteria 1			Criteria 2			Criteria 3			Allocated score
			Submission	Submission	Submission	Submission	Submission	Submission	Submission	Submission	Submission	
SRM01	A	Social Campaign	Social campaign plan or strategy	Club has a clear plan to leverage football for social good within their region								
SRM02	A	Yearly Calendar of Events	Documentation of social initiatives (events, photos)	Detailed calendar of events that is accessible with the club resources								
SRM03	A	Safeguarding Plan	Plan	Meets minimum requirements of the Club Licensing regulations								
SRM04	A	Sport Integrity Plan	Education and information material	Club has a basic plan to conduct education on rules, fixing, anti-doping, betting and discrimination								
SRM05	A	Marketing and Commercial Plan	Reporting document	Evidence that club have completed integrity education and training for players and coaching staff within the last year								
			Copy of the marketing and commercial plan - including brand, advertising and financial goals	Club has clearly defined plan with well-defined and realistic objectives and goals								
			Evidence of staff or partners delivering the plan	Club can illustrate that they have commenced relevant staff or partners in a program within the last year								

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & MARKETING CRITERIA