



**OCEANIA FOOTBALL
CONFEDERATION**

OFC

P R O F E S S I O N A L L E A G U E

**COMPETITION
REGULATIONS**

EDITION 2026

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DEFINITIONS

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

A-League	means the Isuzu UTE A-League Men Competition.
A-League Club	means any Participating Club which is also participating in the A-League.
A-League Player Roster	means the senior playing roster of the A-League Club pursuant to the A-League Player Contract Regulations.
A Licence	means the OFC/NZF A Licence coaching qualification issued, recognised or accredited by NZF and/or OFC, or any equivalent qualification recognised by NZF from time to time.
Accreditation	official accreditation for the Competition.
Approved Persons	has the meaning ascribed to it in Article 45.1.
Australia Cup	means the national club competition staged by, or under the control of, Football Australia between A-League Men Clubs and Member Federation Clubs, currently known as the Hahn Australia Cup (or as otherwise notified by Football Australia) comprising the Preliminary Rounds, the Final Rounds Playoffs and the Final Rounds.
Australian Championship	means the second-tier national men's club competition, staged by Football Australia, known as the Australian Championship (or as otherwise notified by Football Australia from time to time), including the Pre-Season, Regular Season and Finals Series.
Australian Club	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 Licence	means the OFC/NZF B Licence coaching qualification issued, recognised or accredited by NZF and/or OFC, or any equivalent qualification recognised by NZF from time to time.

Broadcast Rights	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.
Budget	the schedules containing an entity's Future Financial Information, based on management's assumptions about events that may occur in the future and possible actions by an entity.
C Licence	means the OFC/NZF C Licence coaching qualification issued, recognised or accredited by NZF and/or OFC, or any equivalent qualification recognised by NZF from time to time.
Circuit Series Round	the first stage of the Competition as set out in Article 8.4 and 8.5.
Commencement of the Competition	the first Match of this Competition as set out in the Match Schedule circulated by OFC.
COMET	means the football management system designated by OFC from time to time for the administration of the Competition, or any successor or replacement system.
Community Engagements	includes but is not limited to official activities, meetings and events such as, school visits, community appearances, or any event approved or required by OFC in connection with a Competition.
Competition	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.
Competition Data	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.

Control	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. The terms “Controlled” and “Controlling” shall be interpreted accordingly. 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.
Concussion Protocol	means the football-specific on-pitch concussion assessment protocol adopted by OFC for the OFC Professional League.
Delegation Member	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.
Discriminatory Conduct	has the meaning set out in Article 44.
FA	Football Australia Limited (ACN 106 478 068)
FFAR	The FIFA Football Agents Regulations, as in force from time to time.
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
FIFA Nationality	the nationality of the individual according to the FIFA Statutes.
First Team List	the list of a Participating Club’s first team Players stipulated in Article 17.
Force Majeure	any event affecting the performance of any provision of these Regulations arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of the party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power, supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion; but not including events arising as a consequence of failing to action a requirement under these Regulations including but not limited to a delay in obtaining, or failing to obtain, any necessary official document required for international travel.

Host Country	the country in which a Match is being hosted.
Image Rights	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.
League Season	the period commencing three days prior to the Commencement of the Competition until one day after the final Match of the Competition.
Marketing Rights	all rights of commercial exploitation relating to the Competition by any means and in whatever form, currently known or developed hereafter, including, in particular but not limited to, by means of advertising, promotion, marketing, merchandising (including but not limited to publications, musical compositions, coins, stamps, DVDs, videos, apparel and electronic games of any nature), licensing any other rights and/or commercial opportunities relating to, or in connection with, the Competition, including any and all sale and concession rights, displays, sampling and hospitality at any venue of the Competition.
Match	any single match played in the Competition (regardless of stage).
Match Coordination Meeting	the meeting held by OFC as communicated via Circular, prior to the commencement of each Round of the Competition at which OFC will issue ordinary and special instructions.
Match Officials	means any individual appointed to officiate in the Competition in the role of Referee, Assistant Referee, Fourth Official, Fifth Official and any other Match Official stipulated in the Laws of the Game.
Match Schedule	the schedule of all matches in each stage of the Competition as determined and communicated by OFC via Circular.

Media Rights

the right and license to produce, edit, and transmit, for intelligible reception throughout the world in any language and in any format, and on any platform including film, fixed media, digital media, games, internet, public exhibition, radio, mobile, and television, a visual, audio-visual, and/or audio signal and/or image or recording (including without limitation the basic feed, multi feeds, additional feeds, audio feeds, a feed incorporating Competition Data, world feed, and unilateral feeds) of the Competition, and all interview activities and action during and forming part of the Competition including official functions and the Image Rights by any and all means of transmission distribution, exhibition and reception, now existing or hereinafter developed including but not limited to analogue, digital, satellite cable and interactive communication systems, on a live, delayed, and unlimited repeat basis, in full or in part (including without limitation by way of clips and/or highlights and/or support 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.

Match Report

means the report completed by the Referee in respect of a Match in accordance with Article 22.10.

Member Federation

means a State, Territory or regional federation or association that is a member of FA from time to time.

NZF

New Zealand Football Incorporated (incorporation number 215518).

National Premier League

means the top tier men's club competition staged in each Member Federation in Australia.

New Zealand National League

means the men's national competition established by New Zealand Football.

OFC

Oceania Football Confederation Incorporated.

OFC Competitions

the OFC Competitions Department.

OFC MA Territory Club

a club from an OFC Ordinary Member Association as defined in the OFC Statutes, accepted for entry into the Competition by OFC Executive Committee.

OFC Professional League Health Protocol	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 the Competition.
OFC Professional League Medical Requirements	the Medical Requirements (OFC PL MR) for the Competition set down by OFC.
OFC Professional League Media and Marketing Regulations	means the OFC Professional League Media and Marketing Regulations promulgated by OFC and as amended from time to time.
OFC Referee Department	means the person, body, department or entity designated by OFC from time to time to perform referee administration and match official functions under these Regulations.
Officer	any natural or legal person involved in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of the club, either directly or indirectly.
Official Start List	as set out at Article 20.
Official Team List	as set out in Articles 17-19.
Official Terms	as set out and defined in Article 1.8.
Ordinary Member Association	an OFC Ordinary Member Association as defined in the OFC Statutes.
Participating Clubs	collectively the OFC MA Territory Clubs and Australian Club accepted for entry and participation into the Competition by OFC Executive Committee in accordance with the OFC Professional League Club Licensing Regulations.
Play Offs	the second stage of the Competition, as set out in Article 8.6.
Player	a person who is eligible to be selected for and play in a Match pursuant to these Regulations.
Professional Competition	means any competition which has at least one Professional Player registered.

Professional League	means a professional league which consists of a combination of clubs within the territory of a Football Association and/or Confederation, and which is subordinate to and under the authority of that Football Association/Confederation in which Professional Players are fielded.
Professional Player	means a Player who has a written contract with a Club and is paid more for his footballing activity than the expenses he effectively incurs.
Promotional Activities	includes but is not limited to any media, marketing, commercial, sponsorship, press conferences, and welcome function activities approved or required by OFC in connection with a Competition.
Protest	as set out and defined under Article 46.
Round	each Round of the OFC Professional League Competition as per the released Match Schedule by OFC.
Regulations	this document, including all Appendices and any amendments to it notified to the Participating Clubs.
Significant Influence	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.
Standard Professional Contract	the standard-form contract for the employment of a professional footballer in accordance with the guidelines as set out at Article 24 of these Regulations.
Team	the final registered Players and Team Officials of a Participating Club for each Match of the relevant stage of the Competition.
Team Official	Members of a Participating Club who are not Players, as set out in Article 19.
Youth Player	means a player who satisfies the eligibility requirements set out in Article 18 for inclusion on a Participating Club's Youth Player List.

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; and
- (f) any words following the terms 'including', 'include', 'in particular', 'such as', 'for example', or any similar expression will be construed as illustrative and will not limit the sense of the words, description, definition, phrase or term preceding those terms.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

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 2027;
 - 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.

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 does 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 Participating Clubs that have been accepted for participation in the Competition by the OFC Executive Committee in accordance with the OFC Professional League Club Licensing Regulations will be permitted to participate in the Competition.
- 3.2 For the 2027 Competition, the following Participating Clubs have been approved by the OFC Executive Committee and shall participate in the Competition (with their home locations designated):
 - 3.2.1 Auckland FC (North Island, NZ);
 - 3.2.2 Bula FC (Fiji);
 - 3.2.3 PNG Hekari FC (Papua New Guinea);
 - 3.2.4 Solomon Kings FC (Solomon Islands);
 - 3.2.5 South Island United (South Island, NZ);
 - 3.2.6 South Melbourne FC (Australia);
 - 3.2.7 Tahiti United (Tahiti); and
 - 3.2.8 Vanuatu United 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 (as further detailed in Article 49);
 - 3.4.5 attending and participating in all activities including but not limited to OFC mandatory educational workshops, team workshops, Match Coordination Meeting, Community Engagements and Promotional Activities organised by OFC. A Participating Club that fails to attend any Community Engagements and/or Promotional Activities in the Competition shall be fined NZ\$2,500.00 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 do not refer to or conflict with the name of a commercial partner connected to the Competition and comply 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 League Season; 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, the Australia Cup, the Australian Championship, the National Premier League, and the New Zealand National 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 unless prior written approval has been sought from OFC and approved by the OFC Executive Committee expressly permitting an exception to this provision.
- 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.
 - 5.1.1 Notwithstanding Article 5.1, OFC will not be responsible for arranging or covering any travel or accommodation costs for an OFC MA Territory Club in connection with a Circuit Series hosted in their home location (as designated in Article 3.2).
- 5.2 Unless otherwise agreed with OFC General Secretariat, 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; and

5.3.5 Match Officials as per their contract terms with OFC.

5.4 In accordance with Article 5.1 (and subject to Article 5.1.1), 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 any costs for any transportation incurred by OFC Member Association Club in travelling to and from any OFC Professional League Community Engagements or other Promotional Activities;

5.4.8 water (a minimum of 3 litres per Player, Team Official and Match Official per Match);

5.4.9 ice (minimum of 5kg per Participating Club and Match Official, per Match);

5.4.10 broadcast costs associated with the Competition;

5.4.11 all costs related to all health measures required under the OFC PL MR;

5.4.12 Participating Club and Match Official liaison officers;

5.4.13 VIP hospitality on any Match Day, where applicable;

5.4.14 doping control; and

5.4.15 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 that are not the 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 (including any transit visas required);
 - 5.5.8 any cancellation and/or rebooking costs incurred as a result of failure to obtain necessary visas (including transit visas) for accommodation and flights;
 - 5.5.9 the costs of any kit and or other supplies required for the Competition;
 - 5.5.10 medical costs, save for costs arising directly in connection with Matches, which are by the insurance obtained by OFC in accordance with Article 49;
 - 5.5.11 miscellaneous costs, including but not limited to, team-related activities, Delegation Member costs outside of the League Season, water and ice at training sessions; and
 - 5.5.12 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 Rights 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 in 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 NZD\$2,000,000.

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 subject to FIFA qualification criteria and approval.
- 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.

FIFA Intercontinental Cup 2027 onwards & FIFA Club World Cup

- 7.4 The distribution of prize monies payable for the Participating Club that represents the OFC at the FIFA Intercontinental Cup from 2027 onwards and at the FIFA Club World Cup 2029 in accordance with Article 7 will be decided once the details of the relevant prize money amounts have been confirmed by FIFA.
- 7.5 Taking into consideration the prize money decided by FIFA, OFC will undertake a consultation process with Participating Clubs to obtain relevant views on the most appropriate and practical prize money distribution model for the OFC Pro League. Principles of solidarity, fairness and league sustainability will be taken into consideration when determining the appropriate prize money distribution model with the final decision on prize money distribution to be approved by the OFC Executive Committee and communicated via Circular.
- 7.6 For Participating Clubs to be eligible to receive any monies as set out at Articles 7.4 and 7.5, Participating Clubs must have:
- 7.6.1 played an entire OFC Professional League season with no withdrawals from the Competition in accordance with Article 4.2; or
 - 7.6.2 maintained their Club licence for the duration of the League Season; and
 - 7.6.3 participated in all seasons of the OFC Professional League prior to the FIFA Club World Cup 2029.
- 7.7 Any amounts 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.
- 7.8 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

8. COMPETITION FORMAT

- 8.1 The eight Participating Clubs listed in 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:
 - 8.3.1 Circuit Series Round;
 - 8.3.2 Play-Offs;
 - 8.3.3 Quarter-Finals;
 - 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 Circuit Series Round Format:
 - 8.5.1 During the Circuit Series Round, three points will be available for a win, one for a draw and zero for a loss/defeat.
 - 8.5.2 The ranking of each Participating Club in the Competition 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.

- 8.5.3 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 lowest number of points shall be ranked highest.
- (e) coin toss (or drawing of lots by OFC).

8.6 Play-Offs

- 8.6.1 The second stage of the Competition.
- 8.6.2 The Play-Offs shall consist of two single elimination Matches to be played as follows:
- (a) Play-Off Match 1: the fifth placed team and the eighth placed team; and
 - (b) Play Off Match 2: the sixth placed team and the seventh placed team.
- 8.6.3 In the event that the scores are level at full time, the Play-Offs Matches shall proceed to extra time, and subsequently a penalty shoot-out if necessary.
- 8.6.4 The winner of each Play-Off match will proceed to the Quarter-Finals.

8.7 Quarter-Finals

- 8.7.1 The third stage of the Competition.

8.7.2 The Quarter-Finals shall consist of two single elimination Matches to be played as follows:

- (a) Quarter-Final Match 1: Fourth-placed in the Circuit Series Round and the winner of Play-Off Match 1; and
- (b) Quarter-Final Match 2: Third-placed in the Circuit Series Round and the winner of Play-Off Match 2.

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

8.7.4 The winner of each Quarter-Finals Match will contest the Semi-Finals.

8.8 Semi Finals

8.8.1 The fourth 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: First-placed in the Circuit Series Round and the winner of Quarter-Final Match 1; and
- (b) Semi Final Match 2: Second-placed in the Circuit Series Round and the winner of Quarter-Final Match 2.

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 fifth 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 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. PENALTY SHOOT-OUT

- 11.1 A 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.

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 their 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 29 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; and
 - 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 rescheduled Match:
 - 13.6.1 The kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by OFC General Secretariat; and
 - 13.6.2 Any matters requiring further decision shall be decided by OFC General Secretariat.

SECTION 3 - VENUES

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.
- 14.3 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.
- 14.4 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 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

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 RSTP, as well as the regulations of the Participating Club's respective Member Association, by the following deadlines:
 - 16.2.1 For the Official Team List – First Team List pursuant to Article 17, registered in TMS no later than 15 January 2027 (17:00 New Zealand time).
 - 16.2.2 Notwithstanding the exceptions which apply under the FIFA RSTP, 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 such Participating Club who are aged 23 years old or younger as at 1 June 2027 shall be eligible to participate in the OFC Professional League; and
 - 16.4.2 A maximum of three (3) players registered to such Participating Club who are over the age of 23 as at 1 June 2027 and who are also registered on the Club's A-League Player Roster shall be eligible to participate in the OFC Professional League.
 - 16.4.3 Players registered to the Participating Club who are over the age of 23 and who are not registered on the Club's A-League Player Roster during the OFC Professional League season shall be eligible to participate in the OFC Professional League.
- 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 pursuant to Article 16.2.1 and subject to Article 18.3 shall have a Standard Professional Contract in place with their Participating Club; and
 - 16.5.3 a Player has had medical clearance to compete in the Competition.
- 16.6 a Player may not play in the Competition for more than one Participating Club in the course of the same season;
- 16.7 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.
- 16.8 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.
- 16.9 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.
- 16.10 Protests meeting the formal requirements of Article 46 regarding the eligibility of players will be dealt with by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

17. OFFICIAL TEAM LIST – FIRST TEAM LIST

- 17.1 Each Participating Club must maintain a First Team List, which must include a minimum of 20 Players. Only eligible Players listed on the Official Team List – First Team List in accordance with Article 17 are permitted to be selected for the Official Start List.
- 17.2 A Participating Club's First Team List may include a maximum of 23 Players.
- 17.3 A Participating Club's First Team List must include at 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.
- 17.4 A Participating Club's First Team List must be registered in COMET no later than 15 January 2027 (17:00 New Zealand time).

- 17.5 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:
- 17.5.1 Surname;
 - 17.5.2 First name(s);
 - 17.5.3 OFC name;
 - 17.5.4 Date of birth;
 - 17.5.5 Country of birth;
 - 17.5.6 FIFA nationality; and
 - 17.5.7 Valid passport number.
- 17.6 Any Participating Club that fails to provide OFC with the items of data required by Article 17.5 will be fined NZ\$2,500 by the OFC for each item of data not provided.
- 17.7 A Participating Club's First Team List may be updated only to include additional players, not replacements through the following:
- 17.7.1 to promote a player from the Youth Player List in accordance with Article 18.
- 17.8 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:
- 17.8.1 A maximum of three players who will be aged 23 or over at 1.06.2027; and
 - 17.8.2 Any amount of players aged 23 and under at 1.06.2027.
- 17.9 Each Participating Club may include within the maximum of 23 Players only:
- 17.9.1 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); and
 - 17.9.2 up to three additional non-citizen foreign Players who holds the nationality of another OFC Ordinary Member Association, within the maximum of 23 Players.
- 17.10 A Player who holds the nationality of an OFC Ordinary Member Association that does not have a club participating in the OFC Professional League shall be deemed a 'local' Player for the purposes of this Article and shall not count towards any foreign player quota in Article 17.9. In all cases, the nationality of the Player shall be in accordance with the FIFA Statutes – Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes.

- 17.11 In addition to the information required by Article 17.5, the Official Team List must also include the following items of data for each Player:
- 17.11.1 Number on shirt;
 - 17.11.2 Position; and
 - 17.11.3 Date of registration with the Participating Club.
- 17.12 Before the Commencement of the Competition, or upon first participating in the Competition, each Player on the First Team List must prove their identity and nationality by producing either:
- 17.12.1 a valid passport containing a photograph (stating day, month and year of birth); or
 - 17.12.2 a valid Certificate of Identity,
- and any Player who fails to present a valid proof of identity will not be permitted to take part in the Competition.
- 17.13 The Participating Club will be fined NZ\$1,000.00 for each Player who fails to provide OFC with the required document as set out in Article 17.12.
- 17.14 Only eligible Players listed on the First Team List and Youth Player List are permitted to be selected for the Official Start List.
- 17.15 OFC shall issue each Player and Team Official in the Official Team List – First Team List and the Youth Player List with an Accreditation. The Accreditation shall always be available for inspection during the Competition.

18. OFFICIAL TEAM LIST – YOUTH PLAYER LIST

- 18.1 Each Participating Club may maintain a Youth Player List. The Youth Player List may contain up to 11 Youth 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 2027, all players were 21 years old on or before 31 December 2026).
- 18.2 If a Participating Club maintains a Youth Player List, all players included in the Youth Player List must be registered with their Participating Club in accordance with Article 16.2. The Youth Player List must be included in the Participating Club's Official Team List – First Team List and submitted on COMET by the deadline specified in Article 17.4. Players included in the Youth Player List must be registered with their Participating Club in TMS no later than 15 January 2027 (17:00 NZT).
- 18.3 For completeness, a Youth Player can be registered as either amateur or Professional Player in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (FIFA RSTP).

- 18.4 All players on a Youth Player List must be citizens of the country where that MA Territory Club's Member Association is established, or of Australia in the case of players registered with the Australian Club.

19. OFFICIAL TEAM LIST - TEAM OFFICIALS

- 19.1 Each Participating Club may include an unlimited number of Team Officials in the Official Team List for the Competition.
- 19.2 The following Team Officials must meet the minimum coaching qualification specified:
- 19.2.1 The head coach must hold an A Licence;
 - 19.2.2 An assistant coach must hold a B Licence (or equivalent);
 - 19.2.3 The goalkeeper coach must hold at the minimum a C Licence (or equivalent).
- 19.3 Failure of the aforementioned coaches to meet the minimum coaching qualification requirements listed in Article 19.2 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.
- 19.4 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;
- 19.4.1 interfere with Match operation;
 - 19.4.2 be republished or repurposed on any social media, broadcast, radio platform or similar without the prior written consent of OFC; or
 - 19.4.3 be exploited commercially in any manner by the Participating Club without the prior written consent of OFC.
- 19.5 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.
- 19.6 OFC retains the right to remove Accreditation from any Team Official who does not comply with this Article 19. Any decision shall be final and binding.
- 19.7 In addition to the information specific in Article 17.5, the Official Team List must also include the following items of data for each Team Official:

- 19.7.1 function;
 - 19.7.2 coaching licence details (where applicable); and
 - 19.7.3 FIFA Nationality.
- 19.8 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. A Team Official is only accepted on the Official Team List and eligible to perform a role in a Match once all required data is provided.
- 19.9 A Participating Club may add or replace a Team Official to the Official Team List, provided submission of the Official Team List is submitted no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to kick-off of the Participating Club's next Match.
- 19.10 Notwithstanding Article 19.9, a Participating Club may add or replace a team physiotherapist and/or team doctor on the Official Team List after the deadline referred to in Article 19.9.

20. OFFICIAL START LIST

- 20.1 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:
- 20.1.1 the names and numbers of the Players, identifying the goalkeepers and team captain;
 - 20.1.2 names and numbers of substitutes; and
 - 20.1.3 Team Officials on the bench,

selected for that Match.
- 20.2 The Official Start List must contain a minimum of fourteen (14) Players. A maximum of five (5) players may be selected in the Official Start List from the Youth Player List.
- 20.3 If a Participating Club has fewer than fourteen (14) Players available for a Match, that Participating Club shall be fined NZ\$10,000.00 except where the unavailability of Players results directly from a Force Majeure event, in which case Article 60 shall apply.
- 20.4 The 11 selected Players (Starting Players) must commence the Match. A maximum of 12 substitute Players must be selected from the First Team List and/or Youth Player List. 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.
- 20.5 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.

- 20.6 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.
- 20.7 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.
- 20.8 After the Official Start List has been submitted, and if the Match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions apply:
- 20.8.1 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. During the Match, up to five Players may still be replaced.
- 20.8.2 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.
- 20.8.3 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.
- 20.8.4 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.
- 20.9 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 20.8.1, 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.
- 20.10 Any suspended Player or Team Official will not be allowed to sit on the team bench.

21. SUBSTITUTION AND WARM UP

- 21.1 The substitution of five Players per Team is permitted in the course of a Match, in accordance with Law 3 – The Players – temporary amendment.
- 21.2 During the Match, each Participating Club:
- 21.2.1 may use a maximum of five substitutes;
- 21.2.2 has a maximum of three substitution opportunities; and

- 21.2.3 may additionally make substitutions at half-time.
- 21.3 Where extra time is played, each Participating Club:
 - 21.3.1 may use an additional substitute (whether or not the Participating Club has used its maximum number of substitutes);
 - 21.3.2 has one additional substitution opportunity (whether or not the Participating Club has used its maximum number of substitution opportunities);
 - 21.3.3 may additionally make substitutions:
 - (a) in the period before the start of extra time; and
 - (b) at half-time in extra time.
- 21.4 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.
- 21.5 Where both Participating Clubs make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each Participating Club.
- 21.6 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 substitution' 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'.
- 21.7 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.
- 21.8 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.

22. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 22.1 The OFC Referee Department is responsible for appointing Match Officials to each Match.
- 22.2 Match Officials 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.
- 22.3 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.
- 22.4 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.
- 22.5 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.
- 22.6 OFC shall provide each Match Official with an Official Referee Uniform to be worn throughout the Competition, prior to or upon arrival at the first Circuit Series Round to which they are appointed. The Match Officials shall wear only the Official Referee Uniform while representing OFC.
- 22.7 The Match Officials shall be given the opportunity to use the training site(s).
- 22.8 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.
- 22.9 A minimum of three Match Officials are needed to referee the Match.
- 22.10 After each Match, the Referee shall complete and verify the Match Report. The Referee shall hand it to the OFC Match Director at the match venue immediately after the Match. On the Match 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.
- 22.11 The decisions of the OFC Referee Department are final and not subject to appeal.

SECTION 5 – RECRUITMENT, REGISTRATION AND CONTRACTS

23. RECRUITMENT OF PLAYERS

- 23.1 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:
- 23.1.1 The Participating Club currently holding the Player's registration has given consent; or
 - 23.1.2 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.
- 23.2 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:
- 23.2.1 The Participating Club currently holding the Player's registration has given consent; or
 - 23.2.2 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 23.1.2.
- 23.3 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.
- 23.4 OFC may refuse the registration of a player to play in the Competition if it considers, in its reasonable opinion, that:
- 23.4.1 The player is seeking registration with a Participating Club in consequence (to any extent) of breaches of Articles 23.1 and 23.2 above; or
 - 23.4.2 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.

- 23.5 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).
- 22.6 A Club may not register a Player under the age of 16.
- 22.7 OFC reserves the right to refer Participating Clubs to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for breaches of this Article 23 where it deems it appropriate. Sanction for breaches shall be at the discretion of the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

24. USE OF STANDARD FORM CONTRACT

- 24.1 All contracts entered into between a Participating Club and the player must follow the Professional Football Player Contract Minimum Requirements outlined in FIFA Circular 1171 dated 24 November 2008.
- 24.2 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.

25. PAYMENT OF PLAYERS

- 25.1 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.
- 25.2 Notwithstanding Article 25.1, a Participating 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.
- 25.3 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.

26. LENGTH OF PLAYER CONTRACTS

- 26.1 Contracts between Participating Clubs and Players must terminate no earlier than the day after the final match of the Competition in the season in which the Player is contracted.

27. INTERMEDIARIES

- 27.1 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

28. LAWS OF THE GAME

- 28.1 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.

29. RED AND YELLOW CARDS

- 29.1 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.
- 29.2 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 29.3, 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.
- 29.3 If a Player or Team Official is sent off as a result of a direct red card for:
- 29.3.1 Serious foul play;
 - 29.3.2 Biting or spitting; or
 - 29.3.3 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.
- 29.4 Accumulated yellow cards received during the Circuit Series Round shall not be carried over into the following phases of the Competition.
- 29.5 A Player or Team Official who receives two yellow cards across the Play-Off and Quarter-Final Matches (combined) shall be suspended for their Participating Club's next Match in the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player or Team Official who receives only one yellow card during the Play-Off and Quarter-Final Matches shall not carry that yellow card accumulation into the Semi-Final Match, and all single yellow cards received during those Matches shall expire upon completion of the Quarter-Final Match.
- 29.6 Cautions and pending yellow card suspensions from the Competition expire at the end of the Competition.

- 29.7 Red card suspensions from the Competition carry through to the next season of the Competition.

30. REFEREEING

- 30.1 The OFC Referee Department will appoint all Match Officials for each Match in the Competition.
- 30.2 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.
- 30.3 The OFC Referee Assessor must complete the Referee Assessor Report and send it to the OFC Referee Department at the conclusion of the match.

31. VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE (VAR)

- 31.1 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.
- 31.2 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.
- 31.3 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.
- 31.4 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.
- 31.5 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.

32. TEAM BENCH AND TECHNICAL AREA

- 32.1 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.
- 32.2 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.

33. TEAM EQUIPMENT

- 33.1 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.
- 33.2 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.
- 33.3 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.
- 33.4 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 must be followed to gain approval from OFC.
- 33.5 Any Participating Club that does not comply with Articles 33.1 – 33.4 (inclusive) shall be fined a minimum of NZ\$2000.00 by the OFC General Secretariat in respect of each individual breach.

- 33.6 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.
- 33.7 Throughout all stages of the Competition, each Player shall wear the number assigned to them on the Official Team List.
- 33.8 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.
- 33.9 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 with a number displayed on the back of the shirt that has not been allocated to a Player of that Participating Club in order to distinguish a Player should they need to change their shirt.
- 33.10 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.

34. TEAM COLOURS

- 34.1 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.
- 34.2 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\$2000.00 by the OFC.

- 34.3 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. Any Participating Club that does not comply with this Article 34.3 shall be fined NZ\$2000.00 by the OFC.

35. FOOTBALLS

- 35.1 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, as prescribed in the relevant circular.

36. TROPHIES, AWARDS AND MEDALS

- 36.1 A representative from OFC will present the winner with the OFC Professional League trophy.
- 36.2 35 medals will be presented to each of the Participating Clubs contesting the final:
- 36.2.1 Gold medals to the winners;
 - 36.2.2 Silver medals to the runner-up.
- 36.3 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, divided by the number of matches played. OFC will determine the ranking at the end of the Competition. Such decisions are final:
- 36.3.1 first yellow card: minus 1 point
 - 36.3.2 second yellow card/indirect red card: minus 3 points
 - 36.3.3 direct red card: minus 4 points
 - 36.3.4 yellow card and direct red card: minus 5 points
- 36.4 Upon conclusion of the Competition, the following special awards will be presented by a representative from OFC:

- 36.4.1 Fair Play Trophy, presented to the Participating Club finishing first in the fair play contest.
 - 36.4.2 Golden Boot, awarded to the Player who scores the most goals in the Competition.
 - 36.4.3 Golden Ball, awarded to the most influential Player in the Competition as determined by OFC.
 - 36.4.4 Golden Glove, awarded to the best goalkeeper in the Competition as determined by OFC.
- 36.5 There are no official awards other than those listed above unless otherwise decided by the OFC Executive Committee.



SECTION 7 – SAFETY AND SECURITY

37. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 37.1 It shall be the responsibility of OFC to ensure that:
- 37.1.1 order and safety are maintained around the Match venues before, during and after Matches;
 - 37.1.2 there is the presence of a sufficient number of ground staff and security stewards at each Match to guarantee safety and security;
 - 37.1.3 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

38. FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

- 38.1 Each Participating Club shall include at least one medical professional as required under the OFC Professional League Club Licensing Regulations criteria as part of their Match delegation for each Round.

39. PRE-COMPETITION MEDICAL OBLIGATIONS

- 39.1 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 the OFC General Secretariat and prescribed in the relevant circular.
- 39.2 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.
- 39.3 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.
- 39.4 In accordance with Article 39.3, 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.
- 39.5 Failure to comply with Articles 39.3 and 39.4:
- 39.5.1 will result in the Participating Club being liable for disciplinary action in accordance with the OFC Disciplinary Code; and
- 39.5.2 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.
- 39.6 All Participating Clubs must 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.
- 39.7 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.

40. CONCUSSION & PROCEDURE IN CASE OF SEVERE INJURY TO PLAYERS

- 40.1 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).
- 40.2 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.

41. ANTI-DOPING

- 41.1 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.
- 41.2 All Players agree to refrain from doping as defined by the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.
- 41.3 OFC shall be responsible for deciding which laboratory among those accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) will analyse samples.

42. COOLING BREAK

- 42.1 During the Competition, the cooling break will be applied in line with the FIFA Football Emergency Medicine Manual.
- 42.2 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.

SECTION 9 – INTEGRITY AND DISCIPLINARY

43. INTEGRITY OF THE COMPETITION

- 43.1 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.
- 43.2 Without limiting the generality of Article 43.1 or the OFC Disciplinary Code or OFC Code of Ethics, the integrity of Matches and the Competition is violated, for example but not limited to, by anyone bound by OFC's rules and regulations:
- 43.2.1 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;
 - 43.2.2 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;
 - 43.2.3 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;
 - 43.2.4 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
 - 43.2.5 who does not immediately and voluntarily report to OFC any behaviour they are aware of that may fall within the scope of this Article.
- 43.3 Concerns or complaints of integrity issues or match-fixing must be reported immediately to the OFC Integrity Officer by email to integrity@oceaniafootball.com.
- 43.4 OFC may adjourn a Match in its discretion if it has reasonable suspicion or concern that the integrity of the Match may be at risk.
- 43.5 Concerns or complaints regarding integrity issues or match-fixing, whether reported to the OFC Integrity Officer before or after the relevant Match, do not automatically result in the adjournment or replaying of the Match, or annulment of the result. Any decision to annul the result or order a replay of a Match already completed shall be made pursuant to the OFC Disciplinary Code.
- 43.6 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.

44. DISCRIMINATION

- 44.1 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 (**Discriminatory Conduct**). This Article 44 does not limit the interpretation of the OFC Disciplinary Code, including the liability of each Participating Club for the acts of its supporters.
- 44.2 Concerns or complaints of Discriminatory Conduct must be reported immediately to the OFC Integrity Officer by email to integrity@oceaniafootball.com.

45. INVESTIGATIONS

- 45.1 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:
- 45.1.1 arises prior to the Commencement of the Competition or after; or
 - 45.1.2 arises in a country not said to fall under the OFC jurisdiction.
- 45.2 Approved Persons may:
- 45.2.1 request and conduct interviews;
 - 45.2.2 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).

- 45.3 Any person bound by these Regulations must cooperate with an Approved Person in the exercise of any of their powers.
- 45.4 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.

46. PROTEST

- 46.1 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.
- 46.2 Unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations, to be considered valid, every Protest must be:
- 46.2.1 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
 - 46.2.2 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
 - 46.2.3 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.
- 46.3 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.
- 46.4 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.
- 46.5 If any of the formal requirements as set out in these Regulations at Article 46.2 (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.
- 46.6 Subject to Article 46.4 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 vexatious, it may impose a fine.

- 46.7 In compliance with Article 44 of the OFC Statutes (as distinct from Article 44 of these Regulations), 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).
- 46.8 Once the Competition has finished, any Protests regarding the sporting procedure during the Competition shall be disregarded.

47. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

- 47.1 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.
- 47.2 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.
- 47.3 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. Where the context requires, references in the OFC Disciplinary Code and OFC Code of Ethics shall be interpreted such that:
- 47.3.1 Participating Clubs have the same obligations as OFC member associations do in the context of participation in competitions (save as amended by these Regulations); and
 - 47.3.2 they apply to the Australian Club, and its Players and Team Officials, consistently with other Participating Clubs notwithstanding that the Australian Club is not an OFC MA Territory Club.
- 47.4 In addition, the players agree notably to:
- 47.4.1 respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence; and
 - 47.4.2 behave accordingly.

48. ARBITRATION

- 48.1 Any dispute in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.
- 48.2 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.
- 48.3 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 10 – FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

49. INSURANCE

- 49.1 OFC will arrange suitable insurance policies for its own benefit (and not Participating Clubs) 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 49.1 and is in addition to the insurance required to be put in place by each Participating Club.
- 49.2 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).
- 49.3 Each Participating Club must have adequate insurance cover for the entire OFC Professional League season, at their own expense, for the following areas:
- 49.3.1 Travel insurance which covers all of their players, officials and Delegation Members;
 - 49.3.2 Health insurance for all players, officials and Delegation Members;
 - 49.3.3 Public liability, which covers the Participating Club as a whole.
- 49.4 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.
- 49.5 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.
- 49.6 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.
- 49.7 OFC maintains subrogation rights against the Participating Clubs for any liability arising from their participation in the Competition.

50. SUSTAINABILITY

- 50.1 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.
- 50.2 In the event that a Participating Club breaches any requirement, condition or restriction imposed on it by OFC in accordance with Article 50.1, 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.
- 50.3 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 50.

51. PRIZE MONEY

- 51.1 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.
- 51.2 The prize money will be distributed on the following model:
 - 51.2.1 The winner of the final of the Competition will receive 25% of the total prize money as approved by the OFC Executive Committee;
 - 51.2.2 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
 - 51.2.3 All other Participant Clubs of the Competition will receive 10% of the total prize money.

52. FINES

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

SECTION 11 – OWNERSHIP AND INFLUENCE

53. CHANGE OF CONTROL

- 53.1 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 Participating Club.
- 53.2 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.
- 53.3 No Participating Club shall allow any legal or natural person to acquire or exercise Control of the Participating Club without the prior written consent of OFC.
- 53.4 Failure to comply with this Article 53 shall be dealt with accordingly pursuant to the OFC Professional League Club Licensing Regulations, including the imposition of appropriate sanctions.

54. REPORTING

- 54.1 Each Participating Club shall inform OFC forthwith of:
 - 54.1.1 Any change in the identity of its Officers;
 - 54.1.2 The commencement or acquisition of a Significant Influence in the Participating Club by any legal or natural person;
 - 54.1.3 The cessation or disposal of any Significant Influence in the Participating Club.

SECTION 12 – FINAL PROVISIONS

55. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- 55.1 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.

56. AMENDMENTS

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

57. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

- 57.1 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.

58. LANGUAGE

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

59. NO WAIVER

- 59.1 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.
- 59.2 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.

60. FORCE MAJEURE

- 60.1 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.
- 60.2 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.

61. ENFORCEMENT

- 61.1 These Regulations have been approved by the OFC Executive Committee on 12 August 2026 and come into force immediately.
- 61.2 Any previous version of these Regulations shall apply mutatis mutandis to any matters that arose before these Regulations came into force.

62. GOVERNING LAW

- 62.1 These Regulations are governed by the laws of New Zealand.

For the OFC Executive Committee

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Lambert Maltock

General Secretary:
Frederic Guillemont

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