



# **COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

## **FFTL CUP 2024™**

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# **COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

## **FFTL CUP 2024™**

## SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1. Title

1.1 This document shall be known as the "FFTL Cup 2024 Regulations" (hereinafter referred to as "these Regulations").

### 2. Organizer

2.1 The FFTL (hereinafter referred to as the "Organizer") shall organize and stage the "FFTL Cup 2024" (hereinafter referred to as the "Competition") annually for Participating Clubs.

### 3. Scope and Binding Effect

3.1 These Regulations govern the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the following parties:

- 3.1.1. The Organizer
- 3.1.2. Participating Clubs (hereinafter referred to as "Clubs")
- 3.1.3. Participating Players (hereinafter referred to as "Players")
- 3.1.4. Participating Officials (hereinafter referred to as "Officials")
- 3.1.5. All stakeholders involved in the Competition

3.2 These Regulations, together with all related directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars issued by the Organizer, are binding upon all aforementioned parties.

### 4 Incorporation by Reference

4.1 The AFC Competition Operations Manual edition 2023 (hereinafter referred to as the "Manual") is incorporated by reference and forms an integral part of these Regulations.

4.2 The Manual shall be read in conjunction with and deemed supplementary to these Regulations.

### 5 Binding Effect of the Manual

5.1 The Manual is binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation and organization of the Competition.

5.2 Failure to adhere to any provision set forth in the Manual may result in the imposition of sanctions as outlined in the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

5.3 In the event of any inconsistency between these Regulations and the Manual, these Regulations shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

## **6. Proprietary Rights**

6.1 All rights and proprietary interests associated with the Competition that are not expressly granted by these Regulations or specific agreements to any Club shall vest solely in the Organizer.

## **7. Reference Materials**

7.1 Any reference to the following documents shall refer to those valid at the time of application:

7.1.1 AFC Competition Operations Manual edition 2023

7.1.2 FFTL Statutes

7.1.3 FIFA Regulations

## **8. The Organizer**

### **8.1 Responsibilities of the Organizer:**

8.1.1 The Organizer shall be responsible for organizing the Competition in accordance with its Statutes (hereinafter referred to as the "FFTL Statutes").

8.1.2 The Organizer General Secretariat shall undertake all necessary administrative tasks in support of the Competition.

### **8.2 Finality and Binding Effect of Decisions:**

8.2.1 All decisions made by the Organizer and/or the Organizer General Secretariat concerning the Competition are final and binding and shall not be subject to appeal.

### **8.3 Applicability of Disciplinary and Ethics Code:**

8.3.1 All decisions made by the Organizer regarding the Competition are subject to the provisions of the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## **9. Clubs**

### **9.1 Governing Regulations:**

9.1.1 Each Clubs acknowledges and agrees to be bound by the principal obligations and responsibilities stipulated in:

9.1.2 These Regulations

9.1.3 The FFTL Statutes

9.1.3.1 All other FFTL regulations, directives, guidelines, and circulars



## 9.2 Eligibility Criteria:

- 9.2.1 Clubs must be officially registered with the Liga Futebol Timor-Leste and fulfil the following requirements:
  - 9.2.1.1 **Legal Registration:** Registered legally with the Notary Directorate of the Ministry of Justice of Timor-Leste and hold a valid proof certificate.
  - 9.2.1.2 **Financial Standing:** Possess a dedicated Club Bank Account established in the Club's name.
  - 9.2.1.3 **Facilities:** Maintain a Club Headquarters and a suitable field for official training.
  - 9.2.1.4 **Coaching Staff:** Employ a Coach holding either the FFTL/AFC "B" Diploma/License or the FFTL/AFC "C" Diploma/License.
  - 9.2.1.5 **Foreign Coaches:** For foreign coaches, certification must be obtained from their home country's Football Associations or the Confederations to which their Football Associations belongs.

## 9.3 Delegation Awareness:

- 9.3.1 Each Clubs is responsible for ensuring that every member of its Team Official Delegation for each Match:
  - 9.3.1.1 Is aware of these Regulations.
  - 9.3.1.2 Agrees to comply with these Regulations.

## 9.4 Obligations and Undertakings:

- 9.4.1 Each Participating Club undertakes to:
  - 9.4.1.1 **Compliance:** Adhere to all obligations outlined in:
    - 9.4.1.1.1 These Regulations
    - 9.4.1.1.2 The AFC Manual
    - 9.4.1.1.3 The FFTL Statutes
    - 9.4.1.1.4 All other FFTL regulations, directives, guidelines, and circulars
    - 9.4.1.1.5 Applicable national and supra-national laws
  - 9.4.1.2 **Fair Play:** Obey the Laws of the Game established by the IFAB.
  - 9.4.1.3 **Settlement of Disputes:** Accept that all administrative, disciplinary, and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the Organizer in accordance with these Regulations.
  - 9.4.1.4 **Fielding Strength:** Field its strongest team throughout the Competition.
  - 9.4.1.5 **Sportsmanship:** Uphold the principles of fair play.
  - 9.4.1.6 **Delegate Conduct:** Ensure the good conduct of its Team Official Delegation and any representatives acting on its behalf throughout

the Competition, from arrival at the Competition area until departure.

9.4.1.7 **Media Participation:** Ensure that Players and Officials attend and participate in all official activities and events, including but not limited to team arrival meetings, match coordination meetings, press conferences, and other media and marketing activities, as instructed by the Organizer.

9.4.1.8 **Non-compliance:** Failure to attend or fully participate in any official activity or event will result in:

9.4.1.8.1 A fine of at least USD 100 imposed on the Clubs.

9.4.1.8.2 Potential further sanctions at the discretion of the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

9.4.1.9 **Information Provision:** Provide the FFTL, free of charge, with any requested information prior to the Competition, including but not limited to:

9.4.1.9.1 Photographs

9.4.1.9.2 Audio/visual materials

9.4.1.9.3 Player and official information (statistics, historical information, etc.)

9.4.1.9.10 **Media Restrictions:** Abstain from establishing any digital, media, or social media platform in connection with the Competition without the involvement and express approval of the Organizer.

## 9.5 **Arrival Time:**

9.5.1 Each Participating Club must arrive at the Venue at least one and half (1 ½) hour before the scheduled Match.

## 9.6 **Representation:**

9.6.1 Clubs are not authorized to represent the Organizer or the Competition without prior written approval from the Organizer.

## 9.7 **Enforcement:**

9.7.1 Each Clubs is responsible for ensuring that any decision made by the Organizer concerning its duties and responsibilities is promptly enforced.

# 10 **Entry**

## 10.5 **Eligibility:**

10.5.1 Participation in the Competition is governed by these Regulations. To be eligible, Clubs must fulfil the requirements outlined in Article 9.2.

## 10.6 **Final Decision:**

10.6.1 All decisions pertaining to entry into the Competition are subject to the provisions set forth in this Regulation.

## 10.7 **Registration Process:**

10.7.1 Eligible Clubs must complete and submit the Participating Team Agreement (PTA) and registration form to the Organizer.

10.7.2 All eligible clubs shall comply with the established Club Licensing Regulations.

**10.8 Name and Logo Restrictions:**

10.8.1 The name and logo used by the Clubs must be identical to those submitted to the Organizer during the club licensing process.

10.8.2 The name and/or logo of the Clubs cannot directly reference the name and/or logo of any third-party entity, regardless of whether it is a commercial partner or sponsor.

**10.9 Exceptions:**

10.9.1 The Organizer may grant exceptions to Article 10.8 under the following circumstances:

10.9.1.1 **Pre-existing Name and Long-Term Use:** The Club's name predates the regulation and has been used for a significant period. Additionally, the third-party entity must have played a direct role (financial or otherwise) in the establishment of the Clubs itself.

10.9.1.2 **Prior Organizer Competition Participation:** The Clubs previously competed in an Organizer competition using the same name.

**10.10 Name Change Prohibition:**

The Clubs are prohibited from changing their names after the first Competition Match has been played.

## SECTION 2: WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMPETITION

**11 Commitment to Play:**

11.1 All Participating Clubs undertake the commitment to play all their assigned Matches in the Competition until they are eliminated.

**12 Consequences of Withdrawal or Exclusion:**

12.1 In the event of the Clubs withdrawing or being excluded from the Competition, the Organizer have the sole responsibility to make any necessary decisions, including but not limited to:

12.1.1 **Replacing the Withdrawn Club:** Finding a replacement club to participate in the Competition.

12.1.2 **Competition System Adjustments:** Modifying the existing competition system structure.

12.1.3 **Technical Rule Amendments:** Implementing changes to the technical rules governing the Competition.

- 12.2 The Organizer's decisions in such situations are final, binding, and non-appealable.

### **13 Pre-Competition Withdrawal Penalties:**

- 13.1 Any Club that withdraws from the Competition before its first Match commences shall be subject to a fine:

13.1.1 **Up to 30 days before the first Match:** At least USD 100.

13.1.2 **Less than 30 days before the first Match:** At least USD 250.

### **14 Post-Competition Withdrawal Penalties:**

- 14.1 Any Club that engages in any of the following actions shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition and will face the following consequences:

14.1.1 **Withdrawal after Competition Commencement:** Withdraws from the Competition after the first Match has begun.

14.1.2 **Match Non-Attendance:** Fails to report for a scheduled Match.

14.1.3 **Match Refusal to Continue:** Refuses to continue playing a Match that has already started.

14.1.4 **Premature Stadium Departure:** Leaves the Competition venue (Stadium) before the completion of a Match.

### **15 Match Cancellation and Points Forfeiture:**

- 15.1 All Matches involving the withdrawing Club will be declared null and void. Any points or goals earned in such Matches will not be considered for the final rankings in the Group Stage, as outlined in Article 23.

### **16 Disqualification from Future Competitions:**

- 16.1 The Club will be disqualified from participating in the next two editions of the Organizer Competition.

### **17 Disqualification from Other Competitions**

- 17.1 The Club will be disqualified from participating in any other Competition organized under the Organizer, if they had previously qualified.

## **18 Match Contribution Repayment:**

18.1 The Club must return any Match Contribution received from the Organizer in support of their participation. If the Match Contribution has not yet been paid, the Club forfeits their right to receive it.

## **19 Post-Competition Withdrawal Fines:**

19.1 The Club will be subject to a fine:

19.1.1 **Withdrawal after Group Stage Commencement:** At least USD 500.

19.1.2 **Withdrawal after Knockout Stage Commencement:** At least USD 1,000.

## **20 Action by FFTL Executive Committee:**

20.1 The FFTL Executive Committee reserves the right to take any necessary action deemed appropriate against the Clubs that withdraws from the Competition.

# **SECTION 3: COMPETITION SYSTEM AND MATCH SCHEDULE**

## **21 COMPETITION SYSTEM**

21.1 The Competition shall consist of two (2) stages:

21.1.1 Group Stage

21.1.2 Knockout Stage

## **22 GROUP STAGE**

22.1 The Group Stage shall consist of seventeen (17) Clubs drawn into four (4) groups:

22.1.1 Group A: Four (4) teams

22.1.2 Group B: Four (4) teams

22.1.3 Group C: Four (4) teams

22.1.4 Group D: Five (5) teams

22.2 Each Club will play one (1) Match against each other Club within their designated group, following the Match Schedule.

## **23 Ranking within Groups:**

23.1 The ranking within each group will be determined according to the following criteria, applied in descending order:

23.1.1 **Points:** Highest number of points obtained in all group Matches.

23.1.2 **Head-to-Head Criteria (if points are tied):**

23.1.2.1 Higher number of points obtained in the group Matches played between the tied Clubs.

23.1.2.2 Superior goal difference from the group Matches played between the tied Clubs.

23.1.2.3 Higher number of goals scored in the group Matches played between the tied Clubs.

23.1.3 **Group Results Criteria (if Head-to-Head is inconclusive):**

23.1.3.1 Superior goal difference from all group Matches played.

23.1.3.2 Higher number of goals scored from all group Matches played.

23.1.3.3 Kicks from the Penalty Mark if only two (2) Participating Clubs are tied and have played their last group Match against each other.

23.1.3.4 Lower score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group Matches (Appendix 1 of the Manual).

23.1.3.5 Drawing of lots, if all the above criteria remain tied.

## 24 Advancing from Group Stage:

24.1 The winner and runner-up of each group will qualify for the Knockout Stage.

## 25 Knockout Stage

25.1 The Knockout Stage will consist of the following Matches:

25.1.1 Round of 16

25.1.2 Quarter-finals

25.1.3 Semi-finals

25.1.4 Final

25.1.5 Third-Place Playoff (if applicable)

## 26 Round of 16 Pairings:

26.1 The following pairings will be used for the Round of 16:

26.1.1 Group A Winner vs. Group B Runner-up

26.1.2 Group B Winner vs. Group A Runner-up

26.1.3 Group C Winner vs. Group D Runner-up

26.1.4 Group D Winner vs. Group C Runner-up

## 27 Quarter-final Pairings:

27.1 The winners of the Round of 16 Matches will be paired according to their victories:

- 27.1.1 Winner of Match A1 vs. B2 vs. Winner of Match C1 vs. D2 (Quarter-final 1)
- 27.1.2 Winner of Match E1 vs. F2 vs. Winner of Match G1 vs. H2 (Quarter-final 2)
- 27.1.3 Winner of Match B1 vs. A2 vs. Winner of Match D1 vs. C2 (Quarter-final 3)
- 27.1.4 Winner of Match F1 vs. E2 vs. Winner of Match H1 vs. G2 (Quarter-final 4)

## **28 Semi-final Pairings:**

- 28.1 The winners of the Quarter-final Matches will be paired as follows:
  - 28.1.1 Winner of Quarter-final 1 vs. Winner of Quarter-final 2 (Semi-final 1)
  - 28.1.2 Winner of Quarter-final 3 vs. Winner of Quarter-final 4 (Semi-final 2)

## **29 Final and Third-Place Playoff:**

- 29.1 The winners of the Semi-final Matches will play in the Final.
- 29.2 The losers of the Semi-final Matches will play in the Third-Place Playoff, if applicable.

## **30 Extra Time and Kicks from the Penalty Mark**

- 30.1 If a Match in the If no winner is determined at the end of normal playing time in any Match Knockout Stage or Final, Extra Time comprising two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes each shall be played.
- 30.2 Extra Time shall be played after an interval of five (5) minutes at the end of normal playing time. A short drink break (which should not exceed one [1] minute) is permitted at the interval of half-time in Extra Time.
- 30.3 One (1) additional substitute and one (1) additional substitution opportunity may be used when a Match goes into Extra Time (whether or not the Club has already used the full number of permitted substitutes and opportunities).
- 30.4 If no winner is determined at the end of Extra Time, Kicks from the Penalty Mark shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the Manual.

## **31 Match Schedule:**

- 31.1 All Matches will be played according to the Organizer annual activity Calendar, with final and binding dates.
- 31.2 Specific kick-off times will be proposed by the Organizer, and any changes requested by the Clubs must be submitted in writing with valid justifications.

- 31.3 The final determination of kick-off times rests with the Organizer.
- 31.4 The Match Schedule will be established following the official draw for each stage of the Competition. The format and date of the draws will be determined by the Organizer.
- 31.5 The Organizer reserve the right to modify the Match Schedule at any time.

## **32 Cancellation of Matches:**

### **32.1 Force Majeure:**

32.1.1 In the event of a Match cancellation due to Force Majeure, the Organizer will hold sole discretion to make necessary decisions, including:

- 32.1.1.1 Whether to replace the cancelled Match.
- 32.1.1.2 Potential adjustments to the competition system.
- 32.1.1.3 Any other actions deemed necessary.

32.1.2 The Organizer 's decisions in such situations are final and binding.

### **32.2 Travel Restrictions:**

32.2.1 If any Match(es) cannot be played due to travel restrictions in the relevant territories or regions, the affected Match(es) will be cancelled. The Competition will proceed with the remaining scheduled Matches, as long as their completion is feasible. Cancellations due to travel restrictions will be recognized as Force Majeure events.

### **32.3 Other Cancellations:**

32.3.1 Any Match cancellation outside of circumstances recognized as Force Majeure by the Organizer may result in sanctions imposed by the Organizer on the responsible party, according to the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## **33 Abandonment of Matches:**

### **33.1 Force Majeure:**

33.1.1 Similar to Match cancellations, the Organizer will possess sole discretion in determining the course of action for any Match abandoned due to Force Majeure. This may include:

- 33.1.1.1 Determining the Match outcome.
- 33.1.1.2 Rescheduling the Match.
- 33.1.1.3 Taking other necessary actions.

33.1.2 The Organizer's decisions are final and binding in such cases.

### **33.2 Other Abandonments:**



33.2.1 Match abandonment outside of Force Majeure circumstances may lead to sanctions imposed by the Organizer on the responsible party, following the combined regulations of the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Codes.

### **33.3 Referee Stoppage**

33.3.1 If a Match is stopped by the Referee for any reason, the procedures outlined in Article 8 of the Manual will be followed.

## **SECTION 4: FIELD OF PLAY**

### **34 FIELD OF PLAY**

34.1 All matches in this competition must be played on a field with dimensions as follows:

34.1.1 Length: Minimum 100 meters, Maximum 110 meters

34.1.2 Width: Minimum 64 meters, Maximum 75 meters.

## **SECTION 5: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS**

### **35 Laws of the Game**

35.1 All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail.

35.2 Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two (2) periods of forty-five (45) minutes, with a half-time interval of fifteen (15) minutes.

35.3 Five (5) of the substitutes listed on the 'Match Start List' may take part in the Match and each Club shall have three (3) substitution opportunities in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Any Participating Player who has been substituted may take no further part in that Match.

### **36 Refereeing**

36.1 If the Referee is prevented from carrying out his duties, such Referee shall be replaced by the Fourth Official. The same applies for either of the Assistant Referees if a Reserve Assistant Referee is not appointed.

### **37 Team Bench and Technical Area**

37.1 A maximum of twelve (12) Players and a maximum of eleven (11) Officials are permitted to sit on the team bench during a Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.

37.2 The Organizer shall ensure to secure a minimum of twenty-one (21) Team Technical Seats for each Club's additional Players and Officials who will not

be seated on the team bench. For the avoidance of doubt, only up to twelve (12) Players and nine (9) Officials from each Club who are duly registered for the Competition are permitted to sit on the Team Technical Seats, and they must be in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.

### **38 Footballs**

- 38.1 The footballs used in the competition shall be selected and supplied by the Organizer. The Organizer shall supply each Club with the same football for its training throughout the period of its competition.
- 38.2 The Clubs shall solely utilise the training footballs provided by the Organizer for training and warming-up purposes.
- 38.3 Only footballs that bear one (1) of the FIFA quality marks shall be utilised for the Competition.

### 39 Team Uniforms:

- 39.1 **Color Selection:** The Clubs must designate a primary and secondary jersey color. The secondary color must distinctly differ from the opposing team's primary color. In the event of a potential clash, the Club responsible for changing jerseys will be determined through a pre-match meeting or designated officials.
- 39.2 **Mandatory Equipment:** The Clubs are required to bring both their primary and secondary jerseys to each match. If, at the discretion of match officials, the jerseys of both teams are deemed too similar, one or both clubs will be required to change or improvise with available kit combinations.
- 39.3 **Goalkeeper Attire:** Goalkeepers must wear jerseys that visually distinguish them from both clubs and display their registered jersey numbers. Substitute goalkeepers can utilize distinct numbered jerseys. In exceptional circumstances, goalkeepers may be granted permission to compete in unregistered jerseys.
- 39.4 **Player Identification:** All players must wear jerseys displaying their registered numbers clearly visible on both the front (25 cm) and back (10 cm) of their primary kit and on the back (10 cm) of their secondary kit. Additionally, player names must be displayed on the upper back of the jersey (7.5 cm). Numbers used should range from 1 to 99, with goalkeepers typically using number 1.
- 39.5 **Sponsorship:** Teams are permitted to display sponsorship logos on their uniforms.
- 39.6 **Modification and Approval:** Authorized manufacturer logos and club emblems are allowed on the jersey, shorts, and socks, adhering to size limitations (20 cm<sup>2</sup> on jersey, 12 cm<sup>2</sup> on shorts and socks). Any uniform modifications must be pre-approved by the relevant governing body.
- 39.7 **National Flag Restriction:** The use of the Timor-Leste flag on competition jerseys is strictly prohibited. This flag is reserved for clubs representing the nation abroad and the National Team itself.

## SECTION 6: TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION

### 40 Accreditation Cards

- 40.1 All players and officials will be issued **Accreditation Cards** authorized by the Organizer.
- 40.2 Each club shall produce the Accreditation Cards for its participants using materials provided by the Organizer.
- 40.3 Each club shall ensure that no unauthorized person enters the team dressing room, field of play, or any other restricted area. Only individuals with validly issued Accreditation Cards are permitted in these areas.
- 40.4 The Clubs may register a **Team Official Delegation**, subject to the following conditions:
  - 40.4.1 Between eighteen (18) and twenty-three (23) participating players.
  - 40.4.2 Up to eight (8) participating officials.
- 40.5 Each participating team may nominate an additional twelve (12) participating officials, who will receive the same Accreditation Cards as the initial eight officials.

## SECTION 7: REGISTRATION WINDOWS

### 41 Registration Windows

The registration windows will open on dates communicated by the FTTL. The applicability of registration are as follows:

- 41.1 Players sixteen years of age or older are eligible to participate in the competition.
- 41.2 Each team will register up to twenty-three (23) players. These players are eligible to access the technical bench and the field, while the remaining four (4) reserve players are not.
- 41.3 A maximum of five (5) foreign players can be registered, but only three (3) may be on the field at any given time.
- 41.4 The registration window applies only to participating clubs in the Competition. It closes fifteen (15) days before the first match.
- 41.5 Failing to register a minimum of eighteen (18) players by the deadline will be considered a withdrawal from the Competition and subject to Section 2.

### 42 Player Eligibility

- 42.1 Each club shall ensure that all players:
  - 42.1.1 Are duly registered with the Organizer in accordance with relevant regulations.
  - 42.1.2 Are duly registered by the club following its transfer rules and FIFA regulations.
- 42.2 Each participating club shall submit authentic documents for player registration.
- 42.3 A player shall be deemed ineligible if:
  - 42.3.1 There is a violation of registration regulations.
  - 42.3.2 They participate in a match contrary to regulations or the FTTL Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
  - 42.3.3 The Organizer determines any submitted documents are falsified.

### 43 Player Registration

- 43.1 There are two stages of player registration:
  - 43.1.1 **Registration Window:** Each participating club submits a squad of eighteen (18) to twenty-seven (27) players.
  - 43.1.2 **Player Selection List:** Each participating club submits a list before each match identifying the starting eleven (11) and up to twelve (12) substitutes from the registered players.
- 43.2 Failure to submit all required documents by deadlines will be considered a withdrawal from the Competition (subject to Section 2).

#### **44 Player Registration Documents**

- 44.1 Participating clubs must submit the following documents with the registration form:
  - 44.1.1 Color passport-size photograph
  - 44.1.2 Copy of national identity card (Timorese citizens)
  - 44.1.3 Copy of passport (foreign players)
  - 44.1.4 Copy of professional player contract or amateur agreement letter
- 44.2 All documents must be submitted to the Organizer within the announced registration period.

#### **45 Players Status**

- 45.1 For Foreign Players, the Club can register a maximum of five (5) foreign players during registration windows. However, a club can only include a maximum of three (3) foreign players in each matchday list.
- 45.2 For players transferring internationally to a club, their registration date is the date the International Transfer Certificate (ITC) is issued and/or the date of provisional registration with the Organizer pursuant to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 45.3 An ITC or proof of provisional registration is only accepted if the club signed a valid contract with the player before the registration window closed and submitted it to the Organizer a copy of the ITC or evidence showing an ITC has been issued, or proof of provisional registration following FIFA regulations, is submitted to the Organizer no later than seven (7) days before the club's first match in the competition.

## 46 Registration of Officials

### 46.1. Registration Deadline and Required Documents

Each Participating Club shall submit its registration of Participating Officials and the supporting documents by the deadline provided by the Organiser for the relevant registration window. The required documents are outlined in Article 47.

### 46.2. Minimum and Maximum Number of Participating Officials

Each Participating Club shall submit a registration for a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of twelve (12) Participating Officials.

### 46.3. Mandatory Participating Officials

Each Participating Club must include the following two (2) Participating Officials in the registration list:

46.3.1. **Head Coach:** Must hold a minimum FFTL/AFC "B" Diploma/"B" Licence.

46.3.2. **Team Manager:** Who shall also act as the Team Media Officer (in accordance with the Manual) if no dedicated Team Media Officer is appointed.

### 46.4. Head Coach Qualification

The Head Coach for each Participating Club in this competition must have a minimum FFTL/AFC "B" Diploma/"B" Licence.

### 46.5. Team Doctor Qualification

The Team Doctor for each Participating Club in this competition must hold a minimum certificate as a medical doctor.

### 46.6. Team Bench Officials

Up to eight (8) Participating Officials may sit on the team bench for each Match. The following two (2) Participating Officials must be registered on the "Officials on the Substitution Bench" form:

46.6.1. Head Coach

46.6.2. Team Manager

### 46.7. Replacement of Participating Officials

Once the registration of Participating Officials has been received by the Organiser and after the stipulated deadline has passed, Participating Clubs may replace any of the listed Participating Officials at any stage of the Competition, no later than seven (7) days before a Match. Replacements must be submitted using the documents set out in Article 47. Such

Participating Officials registered as replacements shall only be eligible to participate in the Competition after receiving their Accreditation Card.

#### **47. Documents for Registration of Officials**

##### **47.1. Required Documents**

Participating Clubs must complete the registration form provided by the Organiser and attach the following documents:

- 47.1.1. Colour photograph (passport size) of each Participating Official.
- 47.1.2. Copy of the National Identity Card (for Timorese officials only).
- 47.1.3. Copy of the Passport (for foreign officials).
- 47.1.4. Copy of the contract or agreement letter (if applicable).
- 47.1.5. Head Coach: Copy of coaching certificate (minimum FFTL/AFC "B" Diploma/"B" Licence).
- 47.1.6. Team Doctor: Copy of medical certificate.

##### **47.2. Submission Deadline**

All documents mentioned in Article 47.1 must be submitted to the Organiser by the registration deadline announced by the Organiser.

## **SECTION 8: MEDIA**

#### **48 Media Access**

- 48.1. Unless otherwise specified by the Organizer, the Organizer shall ensure that the Organizer 's media and all Media Partners have **free access to the stadium or match pitch on match days**.

#### **49 Press Conferences**

- 49.1. The Organizer is responsible for organizing a pre-match press conference, conducted under the supervision of the Organizer's Media Officer, at least one (1) day before each competition match.
- 49.2. The Head Coach and at least one (1) key player of each club must attend a pre-match press conference before each match they participate in. The Organizer shall determine the final timing of the press conference if the participating clubs cannot agree.
- 49.3. The Head Coach of each club must attend a post-match press conference, commencing no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the match. The



designated Player of the Match and winners of any additional awards may also be required to attend upon request from the Organizer.

- 49.4. Failure to attend a mandatory press conference will result in a fine of at least USD50 for the individual and may additionally lead to sanctions against the participating club in accordance with Article 9.4.1.8.

## **50 Interviews**

- 50.1. Upon request from the Organizer, participating clubs shall make their Head Coach and selected players available for a media partner interview of up to ten (10) minutes. The interview location will be designated by the Media Officer or Match Commissioner.
- 50.2. Upon request from the Organizer, participating clubs shall make their Head Coach available on Match Day for a brief interview (not exceeding 90 seconds) upon arrival at the stadium.
- 50.3. Failure to conduct an interview when requested will result in a fine of at least USD50 for the individual and may additionally lead to sanctions against the participating club in accordance with Article 9.4.1.8.

## **51 Flash Interviews**

- 51.1. The Players and officials are not permitted to give interviews at the stadium without the express permission of the Organizer.
- 51.2. The Organizer's Media Officer may designate an area for multilateral and unilateral flash interviews by the Host Broadcaster and Broadcast Partners (as applicable) following each match.
- 51.3. Any player or official may be requested by the Organizer to participate in a flash interview following a match.
- 51.4. Failure to conduct a "flash interview" when requested will result in a fine of at least USD50 for the individual and may additionally lead to sanctions against the participating club in accordance with Article 9.4.1.8.

## SECTION 9: SAFETY AND SECURITY

### 52 General Principles

- 52.1. All matters relating to safety and security shall be undertaken in compliance with the AFC Stadium Regulations and AFC Safety and Security Regulations.
- 52.2. The Organizer must guarantee security for all parties directly involved in the competition matches, including members of both teams' delegations, Match Delegations, medical personnel, media representatives, invited guests, and spectators.

## SECTION 10: MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING

### 53 Facilities and Personnel

- 53.1. The Organizer shall provide a medical room and doping control room fully equipped with all items stipulated in the Manual.

### 54 Anti-Doping

- 54.1. Doping is strictly prohibited. The AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and all relevant FFTL directives in relation to anti-doping are applicable to the Competition.
- 54.2. The Organizer shall inform by means of a circular of the doping control procedure for the Competition.

## SECTION 11: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

### 55 RESPONSABILITIES

- 55.1. Any financial payments to be made by the Organizer in accordance with these Regulations shall be subject to all applicable laws, regulations, orders, by-laws and international sanctions.
- 55.2. The Clubs shall cover transport costs during their participation in the Competition.

### 56 PRIZE MONEY

- 56.1. The Organizer will pay the following prize money for Champion teams:
  - 56.1.1. Champion: USD15,000
  - 56.1.2. Runner up: USD10,000
  - 56.1.3. Third place: USD7,500
  - 56.1.4. Fourth place: USD5,000

### 57. Trophy, Awards and Medals

- 57.1. The original trophy of the Competition shall be presented to the Champion during the prize presentation ceremony after the Final.
- 57.2. The following awards of the Competition shall be presented for the:
  - 57.1.1. Top Goal Scorer;
  - 57.1.2. Best Player;
  - 57.1.3. Best Goal Keeper;
- 57.3. The FFTL shall award the following medals:
  - 57.3.1. thirty gold (30) medals to the Champion;
  - 57.3.2. thirty silver (30) medals to the runner-up;
  - 57.3.3. thirty bronze (30) medals to the third-place;
  - 57.3.4. commemorative medals for the Match Officials of the Final.

## SECTION 12: DISCIPLINARY

### 58. Disciplinary Measures

- 58.1. All disciplinary measures in relation to the Competition shall be undertaken in accordance with the current FFTL Statutes, FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and all relevant FFTL regulations and circulars.
- 58.2. The Organizer may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the Clubs thirty (30) days before the first Match of the Competition at the latest.

- 58.3. Only Players and Officials may serve Match suspensions in the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, this requires the registration of the relevant individual within a registration window in accordance with the deadlines set out in these Regulations.
- 58.4. All Participating Players agree to:
- 58.4.1. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;
  - 58.4.2. behave accordingly; and
  - 58.4.3. refrain from doping.

## **59. Good Conduct**

- 59.1. Each Club is liable for the improper conduct of:
- 59.1.1. any member of its Team Official Delegation; and/or
  - 59.1.2. any person affiliated to it and/or carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition.
- 59.2. For any violation of Article 50.1., the FFTL may issue any sanction listed in the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## **60. Administrative Procedure**

- 60.1. Subject to the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Code, for any offence set out in these Regulations with a listed minimum fine, where it is the first such offence committed by a party:
- 60.1.1. The Organizer, after completing its investigation but prior to opening disciplinary proceedings, may write to the party and make an offer to compound the offence and reduce the listed fine by fifty percent (50%) should the party admit to the offence.
  - 60.1.2. If the offence is admitted, submit the compounded offence to the Organizer;
    - 60.1.2.1. should the party deny the offence, the Organizer shall open disciplinary proceedings;
  - 60.1.3. upon approval of the Organizer, the sanction shall be notified and applied administratively by the Organizer;
    - 60.1.3.1. should the Organizer not approve the compounded offence, the Organizer shall open disciplinary proceedings;
  - 60.1.4. by agreeing to compound the offence, the party waives its right to request a motivated decision or appeal the sanction issued; and

60.1.5. any sanction issued administratively comes into force immediately upon notification in accordance with the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## **61. Cautions and Expulsions**

- 61.1. Other violations whose penalties are not stated in this regulation, and all matters relating to cautions and/or expulsions, including the carrying forward of cautions between stages of the Competition, shall be undertaken in accordance with the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Code unless expressly stated below.
- 61.2. Any player or official who receives two cautions in different matches shall be suspended and ineligible to play in the following match:
  - 61.2.1. Any player or official who receives two cautions in different matches shall be suspended and ineligible to play in one subsequent match;
  - 61.2.2. A player or official who receives two cautions within one match until receiving a red card shall be suspended and ineligible to play in one subsequent match;
  - 61.2.3. Consequently, any player or official who is suspended for matches due to accumulated yellow cards must serve their suspension even if they have to participate in both group and knockout stages;
  - 61.2.4. The caution shall incur an administrative sanction in the amount of USD10;
  - 61.2.5. Any Player or Official who completes the Group Stage having only received one (1) caution shall not carry-over that caution to the Knockout Stage.
- 61.3. A player who directly receives an expulsion shall be suspended and ineligible to play in two consecutive matches.
- 61.4. A player who receives one caution and subsequently receives a direct expulsion shall be suspended and ineligible to play in two consecutive matches;
- 61.5. Consequently, a player who is suspended for matches due to accumulated red cards must serve their suspension even if they have to participate in both group and knockout stages;
- 61.6. The expulsion shall incur an administrative sanction in the amount of USD20.

## **62. Protest**

- 62.1. For the purpose of these Regulations, a protest is an objection of any kind related to any event and/or matter that has a direct effect on a Match.

- 62.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations, to be considered valid, a protest must be:
  - 62.2.1. submitted in writing (using the appropriate Protest Form issued by the FFTL General Secretariat) to the FFTL Match Commissioner for the relevant Match within two (2) hours of the end of the relevant Match;
  - 62.2.2. followed up with a full written report (including a copy of the original Protest Form) which must be sent to the FFTL General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the relevant Match; and
  - 62.2.3. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of USD100 (non-inclusive of any bank charges) which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the FFTL General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the relevant Match.
- 62.3. 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 FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- 62.4. Any protest which relates to the eligibility of a player to participate in the Finals must be submitted to the FFTL General Secretariat no later than five (5) days before the day on which the opening Match of the Finals is scheduled to take place. To be considered valid, such a protest must be:
  - 62.4.1. submitted in writing (in the form of a full written report); and
  - 62.4.2. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of USD100 (non-inclusive of any bank charges) which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the FFTL General Secretariat before the expiry of the aforementioned deadline.
- 62.5. If any of the formal requirements set out in these Regulations is not met, the relevant protest shall be disregarded. The FFTL General Secretariat decides whether or not such formal requirements have been met. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.
- 62.6. Any other exceptions set out in these Regulations, the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Code, the FFTL Statutes and/or any other applicable FFTL regulation, the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall make decisions on protests. Should the FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Committee determine that a protest is unfounded or irresponsible, it may impose a fine. The FFTL Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may transfer a protest to the FFTL Executive Committee for its decision if it is deemed to be purely operational in nature.

### **63. Arbitration**

- 63.1. Any dispute in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.
- 63.2. In compliance with the FFTL Statutes, Participating Teams, Participating Players and Participating Officials are prohibited from initiating disputes in an ordinary court of law and must submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the FFTL.
- 63.3. The Clubs, Players and Officials acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at the FFTL, their sole recourse shall be to 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 Alternate Hearing Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## **SECTION 13: CLOSING PROVISIONS**

### **64. Final**

- 64.1. The Final shall be organised and managed by the FFTL, including without limitation:
  - 64.1.1. Protocol;
  - 64.1.2. Match organisation;
  - 64.1.3. Media operations.
- 64.2. Any additional events planned before, during and after the Final by the Club shall be communicated at least seven (7) days prior to the Final and be approved by the FFTL.

### **65. Special Instructions**

- 65.1. The FFTL (as appropriate) shall, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the organization of Matches.
- 65.2. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

### **66. Decisions**

- 66.1. All decisions made in accordance with these Regulations, except where expressly identified otherwise, are final and binding and not appealable in accordance with the FFTL Statutes.

**67. Amendments**

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

**68. Force Majeure**

68.1. The FFTL is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event.

**69. Matters Not Provided For**

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

**70. Implementing Provisions**

70.1. The FFTL General Secretariat is entrusted with the operational management of the Competition and is therefore entitled to make decisions and adopt the detailed provisions necessary for implementing these Regulations.

**71. Enforcement**

71.1. These Regulations were ratified by the FFTL Executive Committee on 13 March 2024 and came into force immediately.

**For the Football Federation of Timor-Leste Executive Committee**

Lt-Gen. Domingos Raul "Falur Rate Laek"  
Interim President



Gregorio Correia  
General Secretary

