



دوري المحترفين  
PRO LEAGUE U23



رابطة المحترفين الإماراتية  
UAE PRO LEAGUE

# UNDER 23 PRO LEAGUE Competition Regulation 2026/2027 Season

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>PREAMBLE .....</b>                                                                                  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>SECTION 1:.....</b>                                                                                 | <b>4</b>  |
| 1. DEFINITIONS.....                                                                                    | 4         |
| <b>:Section 2 GENERAL PROVISIONS.....</b>                                                              | <b>11</b> |
| .2 INTRODUCTION .....                                                                                  | 11        |
| .3 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UAE PRO LEAGUE .....                                                  | 11        |
| 4. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT .....                                              | 11        |
| .5 PARTICIPATION IN OTHER COMPETITIONS.....                                                            | 12        |
| <b>:Section 3 PARTICIPATING CLUBS .....</b>                                                            | <b>14</b> |
| .6 ELIGIBILITY / ADMISSION CRITERIA .....                                                              | 14        |
| .7 OBLIGATIONS OF PARTICIPATING CLUBS .....                                                            | 14        |
| 8. PLAYERS REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION .....                                     | 16        |
| .9 TEAM OFFICIALS' REGISTRATION .....                                                                  | 18        |
| .10 TEAMS ARRIVAL & MATCH LIST .....                                                                   | 20        |
| .11 THE MATCH LIST.....                                                                                | 21        |
| .12 OFFICIALS AUTHORIZED TO SIT ON THE TEAM BENCH .....                                                | 22        |
| <b>:Section 4 TECHNICAL REGULATIONS .....</b>                                                          | <b>24</b> |
| .13 LAWS OF THE GAME .....                                                                             | 24        |
| .14 COMPETITION FORMAT .....                                                                           | 24        |
| .15 TIE BREAKING PROCEDURE.....                                                                        | 25        |
| .16 MATCH DURATION .....                                                                               | 25        |
| .17 KICK-OFF TIMINGS .....                                                                             | 26        |
| .18 MATCH SCHEDULE.....                                                                                | 26        |
| .19 REST DAYS AND DEFERRED MATCHES .....                                                               | 27        |
| .20 SUSPENSION OF MATCHES .....                                                                        | 27        |
| .21 ABANDONING / POSTPONING MATCHES OR COMPETITIONS DUE TO FORCE MAJEURE OR A STATE OF EMERGENCY ..... | 28        |
| .22 MATCHES SUSPENDED AND ABANDONED DUE TO POWER AND/OR FLOODLIGHT FAILURE .....                       | 29        |
| .23 ABANDONMENT OF MATCHES DUE TO PLAYER EXPULSION .....                                               | 30        |
| .24 WITHDRAWAL & PENALTY FOR FAILING TO PLAY .....                                                     | 30        |
| .25 REPLACING THE WITHDRAWING CLUB .....                                                               | 32        |
| .26 PLAYING FIELD.....                                                                                 | 33        |
| .27 TEAM BENCH & TECHNICAL AREA .....                                                                  | 35        |
| .28 OFFICIAL TRAINING SESSIONS .....                                                                   | 37        |
| .29 WARMING UP .....                                                                                   | 37        |
| 30. MATCH & TRAINING BALLS .....                                                                       | 38        |
| .31 THE STADIUM.....                                                                                   | 38        |
| .32 PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT .....                                                                           | 40        |
| .33 CONDUCT OF TEAM OFFICIALS & PLAYERS .....                                                          | 42        |
| .34 MATCH FILMING.....                                                                                 | 42        |
| <b>:Section 5 HOST CLUBS .....</b>                                                                     | <b>43</b> |
| .35 STADIUMS REQUIREMENTS .....                                                                        | 43        |
| .36 MATCH ORGANIZATION.....                                                                            | 43        |
| .37 PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS, ANNOUNCERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....                                          | 45        |

|                                                      |           |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| .38 THE GIANT SCREEN.....                            | 46        |
| .39 SAFETY & SECURITY .....                          | 46        |
| .40 AMBULANCES & MEDICAL FACILITIES.....             | 48        |
| .41 ACCESS CONTROL (ACCREDITATION) .....             | 50        |
| .42 FLAG PROTOCOL .....                              | 51        |
| .43 INSURANCE .....                                  | 51        |
| .44 INSURANCE LIABILITY .....                        | 52        |
| .45 LIABILITY & INDEMNITY .....                      | 53        |
| <b>SECTION 6: MATCH OFFICIALS .....</b>              | <b>54</b> |
| .46 REFEREES.....                                    | 54        |
| .47 MATCH COMMISSIONER.....                          | 54        |
| .48 REFEREES ASSESSOR .....                          | 55        |
| .49 ACCESS CONTROL OFFICER.....                      | 55        |
| .50 MEDIA OFFICER .....                              | 56        |
| .51 DOPING CONTROL OFFICER.....                      | 56        |
| .52 UAE PRO LEAGUE OFFICIALS.....                    | 56        |
| <b>:Section 7 ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS.....</b>    | <b>57</b> |
| .53 DISCIPLINARY MEASURES.....                       | 57        |
| .54 CAUTIONS (YELLOW CARDS).....                     | 57        |
| .55 EXPULSIONS (RED CARDS).....                      | 58        |
| .56 SERVING OF SUSPENSION .....                      | 60        |
| .57 VIOLENCE BY PLAYERS AND/OR OFFICIALS.....        | 61        |
| .58 PROTESTS AND APPEALS .....                       | 61        |
| .59 TROPHIES AND MEDALS.....                         | 61        |
| <b>:Section 8 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS .....</b>        | <b>63</b> |
| 60. FINES .....                                      | 63        |
| 61. PRIZE MONEY.....                                 | 63        |
| <b>:Section 9 FINAL PROVISIONS .....</b>             | <b>64</b> |
| 62. SPECIAL PROVISIONS .....                         | 64        |
| 63. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR AND FORCE MAJEURE ..... | 64        |
| 64. RATIFICATION AND APPROVAL.....                   | 64        |

## Preamble

Having perused:

- The Ministerial Decision no. (17) for 1972 on the registration of the UAE Football Association (UAE FA);
- The minutes of meeting of the general assembly on 17/9/2007, on the approval of the Statutes of the UAE Football Association (UAE FA);
- The statutes of The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA);
- The statutes of The Asian Football Confederation (AFC);
- The statutes of The International Football Association Board (IFAB);
- The statutes of the UAE Pro League,
- The decree under federal law no. (1), 2019, on the General Authority for Sports and other concerned bodies;
- The decree under federal law no. (60), 2009, on the UAE joining the International Convention against Doping in Sport;
- The decree under federal law no. (119), 2009, on the UAE joining the International Convention against Doping in Sport;
- The Executive Regulations of Law No.8 of the year 2014 on the Security of Sports Facilities and Sports Events
- And based on the proposal made by the UAE PL Board of Directors, we have issued the regulations of the Pro League Under 23 years for the sports season 2026/2027, as follows:

## Section 1:

### 1. Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and terms in these Regulations shall have the same meaning set for them in the Statutes and General Rules of UAE FA, and the following words and terms shall have the meaning assigned to each of them:

**The Country:** United Arab Emirates

**FIFA:** The Fédération Internationale de Football Association

**AFC:** The Asian Football Confederation

**IFAB:** The International Football Association Board

**UAE FA:** UAE Football Association

**UAE PL:** UAE Pro League

**WADA:** World Anti-Doping Agency

**NADO:** National Anti-Doping Organization

**Quality Control Procedures:** All matters, procedures, and decisions issued by the League or stipulated in its regulations, which clubs are required to comply with during the season in relation to the competition, matches, or events and activities related to or accompanying the competitions, and for which a financial penalty is imposed on any party in violation thereof.

**Trademark Guidelines:** guidelines governing the proper use of competition trademarks and sponsors' logos.

**Technical Meeting:** the meeting held prior to any of the competition matches (when required), and attended by the appointed match officers and team managers of the participating clubs.

**Member Club:** the club having membership in the UAE FA as per the Statutes.

**Club:** the commercial body and/or football companies entitled to participate in the UAE PL's competition on behalf of the member club according to a written agreement between the parties thereto.

**Participating Teams:** teams participating in the competition under the authority of the Club and the UAE PL.

**Circulars:** Instructions or amendments related to these Regulations, notified to the Participating Clubs in the forms of official letters before or during the season, by the UAE PL.

**Commercial Affiliates:** anybody obtaining any of the commercial rights from the UAE PL.

**Commercial Rights:** all utilization rights of The Competition, including but not limited to broadcasting, concession, hosting, photography, trading, promotional, sponsoring, travel, tour, new media, video registration, and/or commercial utilization using any other means according to the Statutes of the Association.

**Referees:** the match officers appointed by the Referees Committee according to these Regulations.

**The League:** Pro League Under 23.

**First Round:** This refers to the period starting from the first official match in the first match week of the Under 23 Pro league and continuing until the completion of the matches in the thirteenth week of the same competition.

**Second Round:** This refers to the period starting from the first official match in the fourteenth match week of the Under 23 Pro league and continuing until the completion of the matches in the twentieth week of the same competition.

**Medical Team:** All medical officers working for the clubs, including physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, professional massagers, pharmacists, other medical practitioners and all other persons authorized by the concerned Health Authority in each emirate according to the rules and regulations governing health care and medical responsibility in UAE, the relevant regulations of the UAE FA.

**Force Majeure or Sudden Incidents:** any unexpected incident that may not be avoided arising from a external cause that has no relation to the parties and which affects or could affect the enforcement of any articles herein, including but not limited to storms, floods, lightening, fire, explosions, earthquakes, structural damages, epidemic catastrophe, or any other natural disaster,

wars, terrorist attacks or military actions, riot, chaos, strike, lockouts, industrial procedures or civil disobedience.

**UAE Professional League (UAE-PL)** is the body formed by virtue of the decision of the General Authority for Sports No. (1) of 2019 and consists of the Professional Clubs eligible to participate in the sports season 2026-2027, and is responsible for the organization, marketing and investment of the competitions thereof.

**UAE PL Board of Directors:** it is the body elected by the UAE PL chaired by the UAE PL Chairman to perform the functions entrusted to him under the UAE PL Statutes.

**The Technical Committee:** the committee constituted by virtue of the resolution of the UAE PL Board of Directors, and which undertakes the tasks stipulated for herein in this regulations in accordance with the decision of its formation, and in coordination with the Competitions Committee in the UAE FA with regards to mutual matters.

**The UAE PL Executive Department:** is the administrative section in charge of the implementation of the regulations and the resolutions issued by the UAE PL Board of Directors and supervise the organization of competitions and coordinate among the subcommittees and the professional clubs.

**Participating Player:** the player registered and participating in the competition as well as any other player under the authority of the UAE PL.

**The Local Resident Player:** A Player who has been registered for a period of three seasons with the local association between the age of 15 to 21 years.

**Regulations:** all regulations and/or policies controlled and published by the and/or the UAE FA in connection with the Competition, including but not limited to the UAE FA Statutes, UAE PL Statutes Disciplinary Code, the Competition Regulations, UAE PL Stadia Regulations, UAE PL Equipment Regulations, UAE PL Youth Programme Regulations, UAE PL Accreditation policy, UAE PL Media Regulations, UAE PL Marketing Regulations, Safety and Security Manual, and the circulars issued by the UAE PL

**Matches:** All football matches held in the framework of the Pro League Under 23 including deferred or repeated matches.

**Facilities:** the official areas and press centers/facilities, tickets kiosks and hosting areas used in relation to the competition matches held by the UAE PL.

**Competition:** the Pro League Under 23 including the matches registered in the match schedule and the activities held on the field (in addition to matches) such as celebrations, media conferences, or other related official activities.

**Host club:** the club first-mentioned in in any of the Competition matches registered in the match schedule.

**Match Schedule:** the official fixture list as defined by the UAE PL.

**Broadcast Affiliates:** any entity(ies) including without limitation the Host Broadcaster, who has acquired from the UAE PL any rights in relation to the Broadcast Rights.

**Host Broadcaster:** the party assigned by the UAE PL to provide a specific scope of services in relation to the production of basic audio-visual broadcasting materials (or any other materials) related to any Match or any official event.

**Broadcasting Rights:** the right to broadcast the competition matches and entering the stadium for purposes of TV live broadcasting and/or radio broadcast and/or voice recording and/or audio-visual media recording in addition to obtaining licenses for live broadcast and/or recording and/or any of these matters in any form whatsoever or all forms of TV broadcast and/or radio or any other media existing nowadays or might exist in the future including all forms of land, wired and satellite TV broadcast, the internet, TV broadband (fixed and/or wireless), internet, interactive televisions, broadcasting by phone and any other electronic applications or other means and tools.

**ADNOC Pro League:** the professional league organized by the UAE PL participated by the first team of Clubs.

**Pro League Under 23:** the league competition organized by the UAE PL participated by the Under 23 team of the Clubs.

**UAE Pro League Logo:** the official logo for the UAE Pro League and/or other official logos that are used only by the UAE PL and/or those authorized by the UAE PL as agreed upon between the concerned parties.

**Match Officials:** the referees appointed by the UAE FA and/or the UAE PL in accordance with these Regulations.

**Laws of the Game:** the codified rules which are authorized and published by the International Football Association Board

**Official Match Countdown:** the list containing UAE PL approved activities and events starting three hours before the match and ending at least one hour after the match, this list includes the activities as well as the time these activities should take place.

**Prohibited Items List:** the list of items which spectators are prohibited from bringing into any stadia used for any Match, which shall be periodically communicated to Participating Clubs.

**Ground Roles:** The Roles imposed by the UAE PI in Annex (9) of its Stadia Regulations.

**Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB) Cup Competition:** an annual competition organized by the UAE PL among its professional clubs.

**Disciplinary Committee:** a semi-judicial committee affiliated with the UAE FA.

**Dispute Settlement Chamber:** an arbitration body specialized in settling disputes between players and clubs.

**Appeal Committee:** A semi-judicial committee affiliated with the UAE FA, specialized in reviewing the appealed decisions issued by the disciplinary committee or chamber of disputesettlement..

**Referee Committee:** the committee formed by the UAE FA responsible for all matters related to referees including the appointment of referees and appraisers for all competition matches.

**Appeal Regulations:** the regulations issued by the UAE FA on organizing the process of appealing decisions.

**Disciplinary Regulations:** the regulations specifying the violations under the association rules and regulations and the regulations of the UAE PL, which do not fall under the jurisdiction of any other bodies of the UAE FA or any other jurisdictions as stipulated for in the Disciplinary Regulations.

**UAE FA Regulations of Players' Transfer and Status:** the binding rules regulating the status of players and their eligibility to participate in the organized football competitions, and their transfer from and to the clubs of the UAE FA.

**FIFA Regulations for Players' Status and Transfers:** the international binding rules regulating the players' conditions and qualification for participating in the organized football competitions as well as their transfers between clubs from different leagues and associations.

**Stadium Regulations:** the regulations specifying the requirements to be fulfilled in the stadiums of clubs participating in competitions organized by the UAE PL.

**Equipment Regulations:** the regulations governing the equipment and clothes used by players and teams officers in the Competitions Matches organized by the UAE PL.

**Safety and Security Manual:** the Manual which sets out the organizational procedures aiming at ensuring safety and security at the stadiums where UAE PL Competitions are held.

**Operations Manual:** A booklet containing all the materials related to matchday operations in accordance with the Competition Regulations. In the event of any conflict with the Competition Regulations, the Competition Regulations shall prevail.

**Youth Program Regulations:** the Regulations the guide the roles and responsibilities of Ball Boys, Flag Bearers, and Players Escorts in all competitions organized by the UAE PL.

**Accreditation Card Regulations:** The regulations governing the implementation of the accreditation card system in accordance with the controlled entry areas.

**Accreditation Card:** Any form of permit issued by the UAE Pro League granting its holder the right to access controlled entry areas (or any part thereof).

**Accredited Person:** A person or persons authorized to conduct specific activities within the official areas pursuant to an accreditation card.

**Match Commissioner:** the match officer appointed by the UAE PL in accordance with these Regulations and other related UAE PL regulations.

**Access Control Officer:** the person appointed by the UAE PL to control the enforcement of the UAE PL accreditation system and the security arrangements related to the Competition Matches according to these Regulations.

**Media Officer:** the person appointed by the UAE PL to control the enforcement of the UAE PL Media Regulations as well as the TV Production and Broadcast of the UAE PL.

**Doping Control Officer:** the representative of NADO in accordance with these Regulations.

**General Coordinator:** The match official appointed by the host club in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

**Referees Assessor:** the match officer appointed by the referees committee in accordance with these Regulations.

**Access Control Areas:** the locations of the Matches and other events, such as (without limitation) Stadium and their fences and perimeters, the aerial space above the stadium, and all other locations associated with the Competition, including the Facility Areas, media centers, hospitality and VIP areas and facilities, other areas to which admission is regulation by the UAE PL Accreditation Regulations.

**League Season:** the period from the first football match organized under the auspices of the UAE PL (either in the UAE Super Cup, ADIB Cup or the ADNOC Pro League) until the last football match organized by the UAE PL (either in ADIB Cup or the ADNOC Pro League or the Pro League Under 23)

**Health Authority:** the Ministry of Health or any other governmental federal or local authority working in the health sector inside UAE.

**Media:** all personnel working in the printed media, direct editors, photographers, TV staff, representatives of parties owning the broadcasting rights and those entitled to obtain a media authorization card as specified by the UAE PL.

**Match List:** the list, prepared by the participating club and is approved by the Match Commissioner consisting of a maximum of (11) players who will start the match in addition to a maximum of (12) substitute players.

## **Section 2: General Provisions**

### **2. Introduction**

- 2.1 This regulation regulates the rights, obligations and responsibilities of clubs participating in the competition.
- 2.2 All participating clubs should prepare, organize, and host the competition matches according to the association statute, and the UAE PL statutes the executive regulation as well as regulations, directions and circulars issued by the UAE PL.
- 2.3 The clubs must not work against the public interest in developing and improving the level of UAE football and/or association and/or UAE PL.
- 2.4 All rights associated with the competition that are not granted to the Clubs by these Regulations and/or specific agreements belong to the UAE PL.

### **3. The Board of Directors of the UAE Pro League**

- 3.1 The Board of Directors of the UAE Pro League is the direct authority responsible for executing the provisions contained in the Regulations and has the right to interpret the provisions at its own discretion as well as has the right to issue decisions on those matters not covered through the conditions and terms of the Regulations.

### **4. Technical Committee and the Executive Department**

- 4.1 The Technical Committee: is the committee formed by virtue of the decision issued by the UAE PL Board of Directors to:
  - 4.1.1 Supervision of the organization and management of competitions,
  - 4.1.2 Develop the principles of Match agenda.
  - 4.1.3 Approve the current season's Agenda.
  - 4.1.4 Approve competition's fixtures.
  - 4.1.5 Deal with appeals arising from the Quality Control Procedures;
  - 4.1.6 Approve proposed competitions' Regulations,
  - 4.1.7 Approve development project plans.

4.1.8 Approve annual rewards selection mechanism.

4.2 In the event of the dissolution of the Technical Committee and/or in the case it is not constituted, the UAE PL Board of Directors shall assume the responsibilities thereof.

4.3 The Executive Department: is responsible for controlling competitions and match operations under governing regulations as follows:

4.3.1 Manage the competitions it organizes.

4.3.2 Develop principles of Match agenda.

4.3.3 Set match fixtures and the seasons Agenda.

4.3.4 Amend match agenda in accordance with competitions' regulations.

4.3.5 Develop competitions regulations.

4.3.6 Appoint and prepare match officials and control nominate them for external participation.

4.3.7 Study proposals to develop the competitions and prepare a final draft to be presented to the Technical Committee.

4.3.8 Put selection mechanisms for awards' nominees and prepare a final list of nominees.

4.3.9 Organize technical workshops for related competitions.

4.3.10 Any other responsibilities stipulated for in other related regulations, or as assigned to it by the UAE PL Board of Directors or the Technical Committee.

## **5. Participation in Other Competitions**

5.1 Clubs are not authorized to represent UAE PL or the Competition without prior written approval from the Board of Directors of the UAE PL.

5.2 If for any reason the Competition shall be cancelled, the club ranking from the last season shall be consulted to choose clubs that will represent the country in any local, continental and international competitions, provided that such club shall have qualified for participation in such competitions in accordance with the provision of Article 6 of this Regulation.

5.3 Participation of clubs in foreign competitions shall be decided by the UAE FA Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the UAE PL without

conflict with the Regulations of the AFC, FIFA or the association organizing the competition. This decision shall determine which clubs shall participate in the next edition of the relevant continental or regional competitions.

- 5.4 When necessary, The UAE PL in accordance with its statutes and the statutes of the UAE FA, may organize any new competition and/or change the titles of the championships, which should be notified to the Clubs with reasonable notice.

## **Section 3: Participating Clubs**

### **6. Eligibility / Admission Criteria**

- 6.1 All fourteen (14) Clubs participating in the ADNOC Pro League for the season 2026/2027 shall participate in this Competition.
- 6.2 Eligible Clubs willing to become a member of the League must adhere to the procedures and directives stated in these Regulations.
- 6.3 In case one or more clubs were unable to participate in the competition due to force majeure (for example the club has been dissolved or merged with another club), the Board of Directors names the substitute clubs provided that such clubs fulfill the requirements of participation in the UAE PL competitions.
- 6.4 The UAE PL Board of Directors shall have the final decision regarding the continuation or cancellation of the competition, and the decision shall be final. The League shall not bear any financial compensation as a result of the competition's cancellation.
- 6.5 If the UAE PL Board of Directors decides to cancel the competition, all results of the sports season shall be annulled, while retaining other disciplinary sanctions and fines issued during the season.
- 6.6 All the Clubs shall abide by the business sponsorship contracts related to the matches and signed by the UAE PL and/ or the Executive Department.

### **7. Obligations of Participating Clubs**

Upon participating in the competition, the clubs must undertake to:

- 7.1 To observe any agreements entered into with the UAE PL as well as Regulations, policies, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by the Board of Directors and/or the Football Association and/ or the applicable national laws;
- 7.2 To comply with the Laws of the Game issued by the IFAB;

- 7.3 To accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the UAE PL and/or the UAE FA in compliance with these Regulations or the decisions of relevant UAE PL and/or UAE FA Committee(s);
- 7.4 To recognize the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne;
- 7.5 To field their strongest team throughout the Competition;
- 7.6 To observe the principles of Fair Play;
- 7.7 To comply with and adhere strictly to the Official Match Countdown;
- 7.8 To be responsible for the behavior of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out duties on their behalf throughout all Competition Matches.
- 7.9 To accept all the arrangements made by the Host Club in agreement with the UAE PL.
- 7.10 To attend and participate in all official activities and events such as, but not limited to Technical Meeting, Broadcast Meeting, workshops, match organizational meeting, press conferences, other media activities, etc. organized by the UAE PL in accordance with guidelines and/or instructions in circulars issued by the UAE PL.
- 7.11 To ensure that unauthorized persons are not allowed to enter the pitch area, its surrounding areas and the dressing rooms.
- 7.12 To ensure that all players and officials do not engage in any activities that will bring the game into disrepute and/or damage the integrity of the game.
- 7.13 Players/ clubs are committed to participate in all activities and events the UAE PL requests. In case the club/ player refuses to participate, this violation will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and a fine of thirty thousand (30,000) AED is imposed. unless a higher penalty is imposed under regulations.
- 7.14 To cooperate with UAE PL at any time and in particular at the end of matches in the collection of items from the game and players' personal items that could be used by UAE

PL to create a memorabilia collection to illustrate the heritage of the competition, to the exclusion of any commercial use.

7.15 The club may use its name and/or logo provided all the following requirements are satisfied:

7.15.1 The name is mentioned in the statutes of the club;

7.15.2 Provide a proof of registration with the with Ministry of Economy;

7.15.3 Provide a proof of registration with the UAE FA and used in all other national competitions;

7.15.4 The name and logo do not refer to the name of a commercial partner. If the club submits a request to use the name or logo, or to make any modifications to either or both, the club must provide the necessary supporting documents to the executive management before beginning usage.

7.16 Conclude professional contracts with players according to the number referred to in the Licensing Regulations

7.17 All professional contracts signed with players in any of the club's registration lists shall be submitted to the Licensing Administration of the UAE PL within 10 business days of closing the transfer windows during the season, or within 10 business days of the concluding such contracts in case the registration was concluded outside the transfer windows.

## **8. Players Registration and Participation in the Competition**

8.1 Players of the clubs participating in the competition shall be registered, listed, and transferred in accordance with the regulations of player transfers and the annual registration circular issued by the UAE Football Association for the 2026-2027 season.

8.2 Each club in this competition is entitled to register a total of thirty (30) players as follows:

8.2.1 Twenty-two (**22**) players from the categories of UAE Nationals, Holders of UAE Passports, Sons of UAE National Mothers, and Born in the UAE, provided that they are born in 2003 or later and have completed 15 years of age.

8.2.2 A maximum of six **(8)** players from the category of UAE Residents, under the following mandatory conditions:

8.2.2.1 Four (4) players born in 2003 or later, provided that the player has completed 15 years of age.

8.2.2.2 Two (2) players born in 2006 or later, provided that the player has completed 15 years of age.

8.2.2.3 Two (2) local resident players born in 2005

8.2.2.4 A goalkeeper born in 2005 or later may be registered in the resident player category, provided that he was registered in the previous season. In the event that a new resident goalkeeper is registered, he must be born in 2006 or later, and he will be counted among those registered in the resident player category for the competition.

8.2.2.5 The player must hold a valid residency, taking into consideration the conditions stipulated in the annual registration circular issued by the UAE Football Association for the 2026-2027 season and any amendments thereto.

8.2.2.6 The player registered under the category "UAE Resident" shall be registered as a "Professional Player" and not as an "Amateur Player".

8.2.3 In all cases, and bearing in mind the total number of players in the registration list, the club may register one or two players under the categories "UAE Nationals", "Holders of UAE Passports", "Sons of UAE National Mothers", and "Born in the UAE" instead of the player(s) under the category "UAE Resident".

8.3 The total number of players eligible to participate in this competition is as follows:

8.3.1 All players registered as per Article (8.2).

8.3.2 All players under the categories of UAE Nationals, Sons of UAE National Mothers, Holders of UAE Passports, and Born in the UAE, registered in the age categories, provided that they have completed 15 years of age.

8.3.3 A maximum of ten (10) players from the following categories:

8.3.3.1. UAE Residents born in 2003 and thereafter and registered in the club's lists in the UAE FA (provided they have completed 15 years of age).

8.3.3.2. A local resident player born in 2005 and thereafter.

8.3.3.3. A maximum of seven (7) players from those registered in the first team list from all categories.

8.3.3.4. Only one goalkeeper registered in the first team (and counted among the number mentioned in Clause (3.3.3.8), or a goalkeeper from the resident category (and counted among the number mentioned in Clause (1.3.3.8)).

8.3.4 In all cases, the number of players mentioned in (8.3.3) must not exceed seven (7) players on the field. If the club exceeds any of the numbers mentioned, the participation of the extra player(s) will be considered illegal and will result in the team losing the match (3-0) unless the actual match score is greater.

8.3.5 In case the goalkeeper is sent off or leaves the match for any reason, none of the UAE Resident or Foreign players registered in the match list are allowed to play as a goalkeeper, except for the player registered as a goalkeeper under the UAE Resident category, unless there are no remaining substitutions.

8.4 Match officials will check the players' details through the FA NET system. In case the system is down and the officials are unable to check player's details, the club shall provide such details manually and will be held responsible for the accuracy of such details.

## **9. Team Officials' Registration**

9.1 The UAE PL shall keep and maintain a register of Team Officials and management employed or engaged by any Club, including:

9.1.1 The management staff;

9.1.2 The technical staff

9.1.3 The medical staff.

9.2 The list of participating club officials from whom the match list is selected must include, at a minimum, the following:

9.2.1 Team manager or team administrator

9.2.2 Technical director

9.2.3 Assistant coach

9.2.4 Goalkeeper coach

9.2.5 Fitness coach

9.2.6 Doctor

9.2.7 Physiotherapist

9.2.8 Any other technical, coaching, medical, or interpreter personnel.

9.3 In the event that any of the Club Officials referred to above are not present, the Club shall be subject to referral to the Disciplinary Committee, which shall take such decision as it deems appropriate.

9.4 Participating Clubs are obligated to adhere to the registration procedures announced prior to the commencement of the season for the issuance of accreditation cards, in accordance with the Accreditation Regulations.

9.5 The Head Coach of each Club participating in the Competition shall be registered in the records of the UAE Football Association (UAEFA) and shall hold the required licenses in accordance with the applicable Regulations.

9.6 Each Club participating in the Competition shall register at least one Assistant Coach in the records of the UAE Football Association (UAEFA), who shall hold the required licenses in accordance with the applicable Regulations.

- 9.7 Each Club participating in the Competition shall register a Goalkeeper Coach in the records of the UAE Football Association (UAEFA), who shall hold the required licenses in accordance with the applicable Regulations.
- 9.8 Each Club participating in the Competition shall register a Fitness Coach in the records of the UAE Football Association (UAEFA), who shall hold the required licenses in accordance with the applicable Regulations
- 9.9 In the event of any change to the Team Officials referred to in Article (9/2) during the season, the Club shall notify the League in writing after completing their registration with the UAE Football Association (UAEFA) through the electronic accreditation system, and prior to the scheduled kick-off of the team's next match in the Competition, in order to ensure the eligibility of the Head Coach and/or Team Manager to assume responsibility during such match. It is hereby noted that no accreditation cards shall be issued outside the official working hours of the League.
- 9.10 All participating clubs shall abide by the UAE FA registration procedure with regards to the team officials. Accordingly, all members of the team's medical staff must hold a valid license (issued by the relevant Emirate) authorizing them to provide medical and healthcare services. Furthermore, in line with the healthcare laws and medical liability regulations of the relevant Emirate, the club's medical staff may perform their duties prior to obtaining the requisite license from the competent health authority.

## **10. Teams Arrival & Match List**

- 10.1 Teams (players and team officials) must arrive at the stadium no later than ninety (90) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time for each Competition Match. Teams which fail

to comply with this arrival deadline shall be penalized for failing to comply with the official match countdown in accordance with the Quality Control Procedure (QCP).

- 10.2 Match list consists of a maximum of (23) players,
- 10.3 The team manager of each participating Club is responsible for approving the duly completed 'Match List' on the FA Net no later than ninety (90) minutes prior to kick off. The list shall indicate the following:
  - 10.3.1 The (11) starting Players,
  - 10.3.2 A maximum of (12) replacement players,
  - 10.3.3 Team Captain,
  - 10.3.4 Team Goalkeeper (starting and substitute)
  - 10.3.5 A list of maximum eleven (11) team officials who shall be seated on the team bench, and
  - 10.3.6 If the list is electronically approved, there is no need to have it signed by the team manager.

## **11. The Match List**

- 11.1 The participating club shall enter and approve the Match List in the period between 24 hours to 90 minutes prior to the match. In case of a delay in approving the Match List, the club will be penalized in accordance with quality control procedures. provided that the Match List is verified by both the Match Commissioner and the Fourth Referee during a check of player jerseys prior to kick-off without any liability on their part.
- 11.2 The Match Commissioner is the only person authorized to change the match list if the club requests it (in accordance with the controls contained in these regulations) after the match list has been approved and until the start of the match.
- 11.3 The Match List shall be distributed to participating teams, the media, broadcasters and LED personnel.

11.4 After the match list is completed, and if the match has not yet kicked off, no replacement is allowed except in the following cases:

11.4.1 If any of the eleven (11) starting players indicated on the match list cannot start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by any of the twelve substitutes listed on the match list. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by a registered player(s) not listed on the match list. In such cases, the substituted player cannot take part in the match and must not sit on the substitute bench.

11.4.2 If any of the twelve (12) substitutes listed on the match list is not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by a registered player not listed on the match list; If either of the mandatory registered team officials (the Team Manager or the Team Administrator) is unable to attend, they may be substituted for one another.

11.4.3 The Club concerned must, upon request, provide the UAE PL with the necessary medical certificates and reports.

11.4.4 In any case, registering a person who is not actually present in the stadium is not permitted. Violation of this article will lead to a penalty on the club in accordance with QCP. In addition, the violating club will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for their actions.

11.5 A player is considered to be participating in the match if he actually participates at any time during the match and enters the field of play (whether as a starter or a substitute).

## **12. Officials Authorized to sit on the Team Bench**

12.1 Eleven (11) individuals of the team officials registered in the match list may sit on the team bench.

12.2 The team officials in the match list must wear their valid accreditation cards in the official areas in the stadium at all times.

12.3 The list of officers approved on the FA Net must include the following:

12.3.1 Team manager/ Administrator (Only one of them)

12.3.2 Head Coach

12.3.3 Doctor

12.3.4 Physiotherapist

12.3.5 Assistant Coach/ Physical fitness coach/ Goalkeeper Coach (at least one of them)

- 12.4 To avoid any doubt, the persons concerned shall occupy the positions mentioned in paragraphs (12-3-2) to (12-3-5), those who are accredited by the Association in accordance with the provisions of the regulations, except in cases where they are not allowed to sit on the players' bench as a result of decisions of the Disciplinary Committee.

## **Section 4: Technical Regulations**

### **13. Laws of the Game**

- 13.1 All Competition Matches shall be held according to the Laws of the Game as approved by the IFAB.
- 13.2 If the number of the players on any team becomes less than seven (7) before or during the match, then the match will be dealt with in accordance with Article (23) of these regulations.
- 13.3 Each club has the right to make up to (5) substitutions from the listed substitute players in the match list, with a maximum of three opportunities during the match. Substitutions made during the halftime interval are not counted as part of these opportunities. If both teams make substitutions at the same time during the match, this substitution counts as one of the three allowed opportunities for each team.

### **14. Competition Format**

- 14.1 The Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the league format, whereby each Club shall play two (2) Competition Matches against each of the other Participating Clubs during the league season, being the Host Club in one of the two matches and being the visiting club in the other match.
- 14.2 The following points will be awarded for Matches in the League format:
  - Win = 3 points
  - Draw (Tie) = one point
  - Loss = nothing
- 14.3 The Clubs ranking shall be organized in a League table in descending order according to the number of points acquired by each of them, whereupon at the end of the league season, the club with the highest number of points shall be considered the champion of the League.
- 14.4 If any two (2) or more Clubs have scored the same number of points, their position in the table shall be determined in accordance with Article (15).

## **15. Tie breaking procedure**

15.1 If two or more clubs are equal in the number of points, their positions in the table will be determined as follows:

15.1.1 The club with the highest number of points in head-to-head matches between the clubs,

15.1.2 The club with the highest goal difference in head-to-head matches between the clubs,

15.1.3 The club scoring the highest number of goals in head-to-head matches between the clubs,

15.1.4 The club who has the highest goal difference in all held Matches,

15.1.5 The club scoring the highest number of goals in all held Matches,

15.1.6 The club receiving the least number of yellow and red cards in all competition matches provided that they are calculated by deducting one point for each yellow card, three points for each direct red card. No points will be deducted for a red card resulting from 2 yellow cards.

15.1.7 By draw.

## **16. Match Duration**

16.1 Each Competition Match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two (2) periods of 45 minutes, with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.

16.2 The cooling break is implemented in the competition matches according to the weather conditions and whenever necessary, based on a decision issued by the executive management, according to the following procedures:

16.2.1 In the first half of the match: At approximately the 30<sup>th</sup> minute and when the ball is out of play, the referee will signal for the start of the cooling break. Players will gather at the front of their team bench, but while still within the field of play, to cool themselves with sponge soaked with icy water, ice, and cool drinking water. This break will last not less than 90 seconds and will end when the referee signals through his whistle. Players are not allowed to leave the field of play.

16.2.2 In the second half of the match: At approximately the 75<sup>th</sup> minute and when the ball is out of play, the referee will signal for the start of the cooling break. Players will gather at the front of their team bench, but while still within the field of play, to cool themselves with sponge soaked with icy water, ice, and cool drinking water. This break will last not less than 90 seconds

16.2.3 and will end when the referee signals through his whistle. Players are not allowed to leave the field of play.

## **17. Kick-Off Timings**

17.1 The Technical Committee shall approve kick-off times for all Competition Matches based on the recommendations of the Executive Department.

17.2 Each Club participating in a Competition Match shall adhere to the kick-off time.

17.3 Any Club which delays the kick-off of a Competition Match either at the start of the match or the re-start after the fifteen (15) minute half-time interval (as per Law 7 of the Laws of the Game) shall be fined in accordance with the Quality Control Procedure.

## **18. Match Schedule**

18.1 The Executive Department shall determine the schedule for Competition Matches. All matches must be played as per the schedule decided. Notwithstanding, the date or venue of any Competition Match can be changed as may be required by public interest.

18.2 If required and possible, all matches of the last three rounds of the Competition will be held in one day at the same time.

18.3 In case a club wishes to change the time, date and/or venue of the match, the club must submit, at least one week prior to the Competition Match, its application for the change. The application

for change must include the proposed new time and date, the reason for the change, and any additional requirements set by the UAE PL on a case-by-case basis. The final decision will be at the discretion of the UAE PL.

- 18.4 In the case of a Competition Match being rescheduled to a new venue, the Home Club will be considered the Host Club and shall be responsible for all matters in accordance with relative clauses of the UAE PL regulations.

## **19. Rest Days and Deferred Matches**

- 19.1 When scheduling matches, participating clubs are granted two rest days if they participate in any local or international competitions, as deemed appropriate

## **20. Suspension of Matches**

- 20.1 If the referee suspends, or any match of the Competition is interrupted during play and before the expiration of regular playing time due to any event, whether arising from force majeure, emergency circumstances, or any other reason, the following procedures shall be followed:

- 20.1.1 The referee shall temporarily suspend the match for a period not exceeding thirty (30) minutes pending the resumption of play, unless the referee determines that the match may be resumed at an earlier time before the expiry of the thirty-minute period.
- 20.1.2 If the Referee decides to restart the match in accordance with Article (20.1.1) above, the participating clubs have the right to request for an additional five (5) minutes preparation and warm-up time; and
- 20.1.3 If the Referee cannot restart the match after the thirty (30) minute delay the match is abandoned in accordance with Article (21.1.5).

## **21. Abandoning / Postponing Matches or competitions due to Force Majeure or a state of emergency**

### **21.1 Abandoning / Postponing Matches:**

21.1.1 The Executive Management has the right to abandon or postpone a match due to force majeure or any emergency incidents from 24 hours and until at least 3 hours prior to the kick-off time.

21.1.2 For the period from 3 hours before match kick-off until match kick-off time, the referee and Match Commissioner have the right to abandon or postpone the match. The referee shall wait for a maximum of 30 minutes from the kick-off time before taking a final decision to abandon the match.

21.1.3 In agreement with the Match Referee, the Match Commissioner may delay the match for one hour, in case the decision was taken before no less than one hour prior to the match kick-off time.

21.1.4 In case the emergency occurs again after the match kick-off, the referee may wait for an additional 30 minutes based on the evaluation of the emergency, before taking a final decision to abandon the match.

21.1.5 In case of an abandoned or postponed match due to the reason referred to herein above, this match will be played the next day, unless otherwise decided by the UAE PL Executive Department. The whole match will be replayed regardless of the result and remaining time. All yellow and red cards given during the match shall be cancelled. Nonetheless, any offence committed which is due in front of the Disciplinary Committee and/or any additional reports from the referee and/or Match Commissioner arising from this match shall be maintained and implemented. Further, any player who was not fielded in this match due to suspension is considered not to have served his suspension (i.e. as if the match had not been played at all).

21.1.6 In case the match was not played on the next day, the Executive Department will determine the date, time, and venue of the replayed match.

### **21.2 Abandoning/ not continuing of competitions:**

21.2.1 The decision to abandon/ not continue the season and/ or the competition due to a force majeure or a state of emergency shall be taken by the board of directors following official announcements of competent authorities in the UAE.

21.2.2 In the event the decision to abandon/ not continue the season and/ or the competition was before the end of Round 1, the entire season shall be abandoned without crowning a champion, and without any relegation to First Division, and teams ranking shall not be considered for any reason.

21.2.3 In the event the decision to abandon/ not continue the season and/ or the competition was after the end of all Round 1 matches, the final ranking will be according to the ranking when the competition was suspended/ canceled if all teams played the same number of matches. However, if the number of matches was not the same, the final ranking will be according to the results of the last Match Day where all teams played the same number of matches; this result will also determine the champion, the teams that will be relegated, the teams participating in ACL and all other consequences be it financial, administrative or any other consequences. For the avoidance of doubt, an incomplete match day will not be considered for the final ranking.

21.3 The decisions taken under the articles hereinabove may not be objected or appealed before any judicial or arbitrary bodies.

## **22. Matches Suspended and abandoned due to Power and/or Floodlight Failure**

22.1 Where a Competition Match is suspended or abandoned by the Referee due to a power disconnection affecting the floodlights the following procedures must be followed:

22.1.1 Before the match starts: In the case of a power and/or floodlight failure taking place before the kickoff which cannot be solved within 30 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, the match shall be postponed and re-arranged at a stadium to be decided by the Executive Department;

22.1.2 After the match has started: In the case of a power and/or floodlight failure taking place during any stage of a Competition Match which has started and cannot be solved within 30 minutes:

22.1.2.1 If the visiting Club is winning, the Referee shall end the match and the result shall be decided in favour of the visiting Club (0-3) or if the score is greater, the greater score shall prevail); or

22.1.2.2 If the match is tied or the visiting Club is not winning, the match shall be replayed irrespective of the result and the time of abandonment.

22.1.2.3 In the case of another power failure during the match, the actions taken in Clause 22.1.2 shall be retaken.

22.2 Except in cases of force majeure, if the match is postponed, the host club shall bear all operational costs and commercial losses (if any) incurred by the UAE PL, as well as covering the accommodation and travel costs of the visiting club. A financial penalty of AED 500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Dirhams) will also be imposed on the host club.

22.3 Notwithstanding Article (22.1.1) and (22.1.2) above, if the power and/or floodlight is disconnected during any stage of a Competition Match played at a neutral stadium or at a match organized by the UAE PL, the Referee shall declare the match to be abandoned and the results of the match will be null and void. Article (21) shall apply.

### **23. Abandonment of Matches due to Player Expulsion**

23.1 If the number of players of any of the Participating Club becomes less than seven (7) players during any of the competition matches, the referee must end the match and procedures in accordance with the UAE FA Disciplinary Regulations.

### **24. Withdrawal & Penalty for Failing to Play**

24.1 Clubs are committed to playing all competition matches. If any club withdraws from any competition match (either before or during the match), expressly or implicitly (for example, but not limited to, the team failing to arrive on the field in a manner that allows the match to be played according to the regulations before the start of the match), the match will be deemed a forfeit by a score of 0-3, unless the score is higher. The withdrawing club shall bear all operational costs and commercial losses incurred by the League as a result of its

withdrawal, in addition to imposing a financial penalty on the withdrawing club in the amount of one million (1,000,000) AED.

24.2 If a Club withdraws from the Competition for any reason other than Force Majeure before the beginning of the season, the Board of Directors of the UAE PL shall take the necessary steps with this regard.

24.3 Any Club that withdraws from the Competition for any reason other than Force Majeure shall be subject to the following actions:

24.3.1 More than 45 days before the beginning of the Competition:

24.3.1.1 Shall be relegated to the lower division.

24.3.1.2 shall pay a fine of AED 1000,000

24.3.2 (45) days or less before the beginning of the Competition:

24.3.2.1 Shall be relegated to the lower division;

24.3.2.2 Shall pay a fine of AED 2,000,000;

24.3.2.3 Shall be prevented from participating in the Competitions organized by the UAE PL for the next season.

24.3.3 During first Round of the Competition:

24.3.3.1 The Club shall be relegated to the lower division for the following season and be disqualified from participating in the Competition for the next two (2) consecutive seasons;

24.3.3.2 Shall pay a fine of AED 3,000,000; and

24.3.3.3 Shall bear the losses resulting from the forfeiture of the income expected from the commercial contracts, TV transmission contracts and all other expenses resulting from participating in the competition matches before withdrawal.

24.3.3.4 Have all its matches cancelled and considered invalid (all points, goals scored and goals against will not be counted and taken into consideration when deciding the Competition ranking). Nonetheless, any sanctions passed down from the Disciplinary Committee shall remain as well as any Yellow or Red cards recorded during the above cancelled matches.

#### 24.3.4 During the second Round of the Competition:

- 24.3.4.1 The Club shall be relegated to the lower division for the following season and be disqualified from participating in the League for the next two (2) consecutive seasons;
- 24.3.4.2 Shall pay a fine of AED 4,000,000;
- 24.3.4.3 Shall bear the losses resulting from the forfeiture of the income expected from the commercial contracts, TV transmission contracts and all other expenses resulting from participating in the competition matches before withdrawal; and
- 24.3.4.4 All its matches played in the first Round (all points, goals scored and goal against will be counted and taken into consideration when deciding the Competition ranking). All sanctions passed down by the Disciplinary Committee shall remain as well as any yellow or red cards recorded during the above matches; and
- 24.3.4.5 Have all its matches that were played in the second Round till the point of withdrawal cancelled and considered invalid (all points, goals scored and goals against will not be counted and taken into consideration when deciding the Competition ranking). Nonetheless, any sanctions passed down by the Disciplinary Committee shall remain as well as any Yellow or Red cards recorded during the above cancelled matches.

24.4 In all cases of withdrawal, any financial amounts paid to the club for its participation in the competition shall be recovered, and the club shall be deprived of any distributions granted to clubs based on their ranking in the general competition table.

24.5 The UAE PL Board of Directors shall take decisions in cases where the participating Club withdraws from the competition due to force majeure and exceptional circumstances.

### **25. Replacing the Withdrawing Club**

25.1 If any club withdraws from the competition pursuant to article (24), the Board of Directors of the UAE PL board shall decide on an alternative club to participate in the Competition provided that such club fulfills all requirements of Participating Clubs.

## 26. Playing Field

- 26.1 Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their field of play is maintained in good condition in order to help facilitate the playing of Competition Matches to the highest quality to enhance the technical standard of play. If the field of play is not in the best condition, or in a condition that may affect the quality of TV production and broadcast of the match, and the quality of viewership, the club shall, on the request of the Executive Department, provide an alternative stadium. In the event where the club does not provide an alternative stadium at least one week prior to the match day, the Executive Department reserves the right to change the venue for the match. In such cases, the Host Club is responsible for all related costs as a result of the match being moved to the new venue.
- 26.2 If the club does not perform the required maintenance of the field of play, the UAE PL may appoint a company to perform the needed maintenance at the expense of the club. In all cases, the UAE PL has the right to deduct the maintenance costs from the club dues.
- 26.3 The Host Club shall ensure that no activities are held on the field of play from forty-eight (48) hours prior to the kick-off of the match. In case of non-adherence to this, a QCP penalty shall be imposed on the club. The UAE PL has the right to change the venue and charge the host club all resulting costs.
- 26.4 In case the club holds any activities in the stadium outside the period mentioned in Article (26.3) herein above, the club shall notify the Executive Department with this, and shall ensure that such activities and events will in no form affect the pitch and/ or the stadium facilities. In case of non-adherence to this, a QCP shall be imposed on the club.
- 26.5 Field of play markings must be in accordance with Law No. (1) of the Laws of the Game. It is the responsibility of the Club to guarantee that field of play is clearly marked according to the Laws of the Game and the UAE PL Pitch Marking Manual approved by the UAE PL.

After the markings are approved, the club may not change the markings unless it secures the written approval of the Executive Department of the UAE PL.

- 26.6 Upon arrival at the stadium, the Match Commissioner and the Referees shall inspect the stadium and field of play and ensure that all arrangements are in accordance with the Laws of the Game and all of UAE PL's relevant regulations. If the conditions of the Field of Play (including goal dimensions and the pitch) do not comply with the Laws of the Game and/or all of UAE PL's relevant regulations, the Match Commissioner and/or the Referees shall immediately issue relevant instructions to the Host Club to rectify the situation.
- 26.7 If fifty (50) minutes prior to the kick-off Article (26.6) is not complied, a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) AED will be imposed on the club according to the Quality Control Procedures (QCP). In case the necessary amendment was not implied until 15 minutes prior to kick-off time, the match will be abandoned and the Away team wins (3-0).
- 26.8 The Host Club may water the pitch in the following times:
- 26.8.1 Before Warm-up time provided that the watering will finish at least one hour before the match starts.
- 26.8.2 After the warm-up has finished, which is 20 minutes before the match starts for a maximum of 5 minutes.
- 26.8.3 In the half time for a maximum of 5 minutes provided that watering the pitch starts only after all players have left the field of play.
- 26.9 The Host Club must water the turf in the period from -1 hour of the match kick-off as per Article (26.8.1) above, until no less than 5 minutes before the match kick-off. However, depending on the weather conditions, the referee and the Match Commissioner will decide on whether to cancel the compulsory watering or not.
- 26.10 In all cases, the club shall inform the Match Commissioner about watering times during the organizational meeting of the match held 3 hours before the match.
- 26.11 In case the Host Club watered the pitch without informing the Match Commissioner, or if the club wishes to water the turf before the arrival of match officials, the club shall inform the TV Broadcast company and the LED officer before watering the turf. In the

event of non-adherence, a fine will be imposed on the Host club in accordance with the Quality Control Procedures. In addition, the Host Club bears all costs related to any damages to the service providers, upon a report on such damages, approved by the UAE PL.

26.12 In case the club wishes to change the turf approved by the UAE PL or perform any maintenance to the turf, the club must notify the UAE PL at least one month prior to starting the maintenance. In addition, if any of the club home matches of the competition organized by the UAE PL fall within the maintenance period, the club must notify the UAE PL with the alternative venue, provided that the nominated venue is among the stadia approved by the UAE PL.

## **27. Team Bench & Technical Area**

- 27.1 Dedicated team benches shall be provided directly adjacent to the pitch for each team for the sole use of Team Officials, medical staff, and substitute players.
- 27.2 Each technical area shall be located equidistant from the halfway line. The location of technical areas will be determined during the field visits to the stadium that the UAE PL representatives perform before the season.
- 27.3 Team benches must contain a minimum of twenty-three (23) full size seats, which are affixed to the bench and have backrests. Moveable chairs are not allowed. The benches must be covered to protect against bad weather and spectator misbehavior.
- 27.4 A maximum of eleven (**11**) team officials and twelve (12) substitutes are allowed to sit on the team bench, provided they are in possession of the appropriate accreditation card.
- 27.5 During matches, players on the team bench are not allowed access to any TV footage of the match and/or electronic communication tools including but not limited to telephone, tablets, walkie-talkie, etc. The Match Commissioner has the right to confiscate any of these electronic equipment in case of violation of this article.
- 27.6 Match officials on the team bench are not allowed to access any TV footage of the match and/ or use the electronic communication tools for the same purpose. However, and for purposes related to the safety and security of players and/or tactical or coaching purposes

only, match officials are allowed to use mobile phones, tablets and walkie-talkies. The Match Commissioner has the right to confiscate any of this electronic equipment in case of any misuse. In addition, the Match Referee has the right to take further action.

- 27.7 If at any time the number of persons sitting on the bench exceeds that allowed under Article 27.4 above, then the responsible Club shall be fined in accordance with the Quality Control Procedure (QCP).
- 27.8 If at any stage during a Competition Match one or more people related to one of the participating Clubs who are not registered on the team officials list refuse to leave the field of play (pitch area, team benches, technical area or any other place around the field of play) after instructions from the Referee, the result of the match shall be considered as 3-0 in favour of the other team or if the score is greater, the greater score shall prevail. Moreover, the Referee shall abandon the Match and the responsible Club shall be fined in accordance with the Decision of the Disciplinary Committee.
- 27.9 As soon as they arrive at the stadium, all team officials shall wear the club official kit or the official kit. In case of non-adherence, the club shall be penalized in accordance with QCP.
- 27.10 All team officials and players seated on the bench must wear club official kits that are contrasting with the colours of the players and Referees on the pitch, except for the Head Coach and the administrative team. In case of non-adherence, a penalty will be imposed in accordance with QCP. In addition, team officials and players seated on the bench must wear bibs when instructed by the Referees.
- 27.11 Team benches on the left side (when facing the pitch) are designated for the Host Team while the team benches on the right side (when facing the pitch) are designated for the Away Team.

## **28. Official Training Sessions**

- 28.1 There are no official training sessions for the visiting team unless otherwise determined by the Technical Committee.

## **29. Warming Up**

### **29.1 Before the match starts**

29.1.1 Teams shall be entitled to warm up on the field of play before the match if the weather permits (as determined by the Match Commissioner). The warmup shall start fifty (50) minutes before kick-off of the match and shall end at the latest twenty (20) minutes before the match starts.

29.1.2 In Case of any obstacles on the pitch, the Match Commissioner shall specify warm-up location.

29.1.3 Teams are not allowed to warm up earlier and/or later than the above-mentioned times. Teams which fail to comply with the official pre-match warm up timings in Article 29.1 above, shall be penalized for failing to comply with the official match countdown in accordance with the Quality Control Procedure (QCP). The teams may decide not to warm up if they wish.

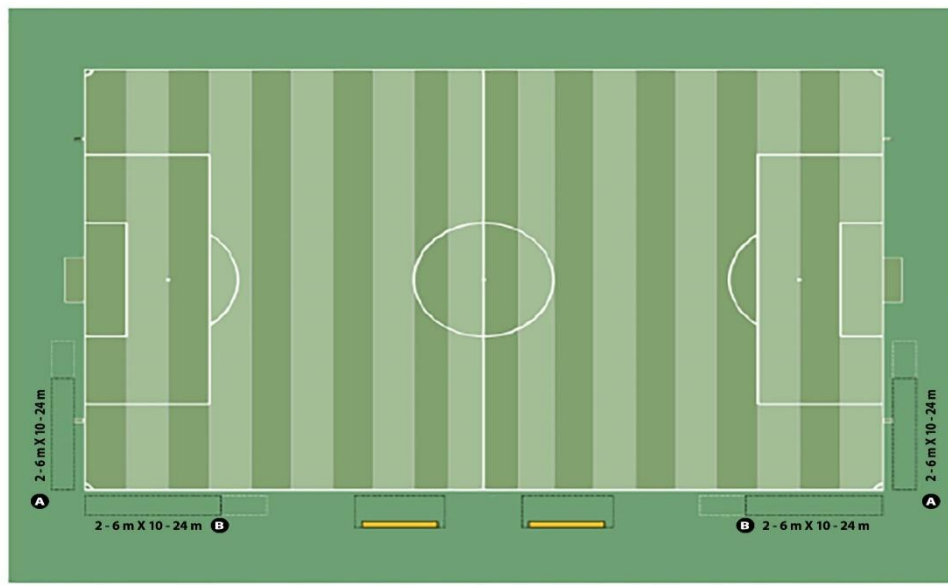
### **29.2 During the match:**

29.2.1 Substitute players must wear warm-up shirts in a color distinct from the team's kit.

29.2.2 The warm-up area should be made of natural grass or high-quality artificial turf approved by the FIFA, with a recommended size between 2 to 6 meters in width and 10 to 24 meters in length.

29.2.3 The warm-up area for substitute players should be located behind the LEDs behind the goal, if space permits. The boundaries of the warm-up area should be marked on the side closest to the team's bench (as shown in the attached diagram). Up to nine (9) players from each team are allowed to warm up simultaneously, assisted by a maximum of two (2) team officials without using a ball (except for the goalkeeper).

29.2.4 If the space behind the goal does not comply with the dimensions specified in item 29.2.2, substitute players must warm up in an area adjacent to their team's bench, according to the dimensions specified in item 29.2.2. In this case, a maximum of four (4) players from each team are allowed to warm up simultaneously (without using a ball), and they may be assisted by one team official.



### 30. Match & Training Balls

30.1 The Participating Clubs shall utilized footballs provided by the Executive Department of the UAE PL to the Participating Clubs, which have already been used by the Host Club for the ADNOC Pro League.

30.2 The pressure of the footballs shall be set between 0.8 bar to 1.0 bar. The footballs shall be placed in the referee's room at least 120 minutes before the start of the match. The referees shall ensure that this procedure is completed.

### 31. The Stadium

31.1 The stadium shall be inside the UAE and it should be one of the stadia already approved by the UAE PL. In addition, the stadium shall meet the requirements as per criterion (I.01) of the UAE Club Licensing Regulations, and any other related regulations of the UAE PL. All Participating Clubs must name at least one stadium that fulfills all requirements set forth in

the UAE PL Stadia Regulations at least ninety days before the start of the first match in the Competition. Any renovations on the nominated stadium must be finished at least thirty (30) days before the first match in the Competition. Stadia may only be used if approved by the Executive Department of the UAE PL.

- 31.2 The Board of Directors may grant an exception to specific structural criteria in the UAE PL Stadia Regulations in cases of particular hardship or structural impossibility to meet the required criteria; and upon reasoned request.
- 31.3 The club must play all its home matches at the same stadium. In the event where the club's home stadium is not ready before the beginning of the season and the club is unable to play its home matches on this stadium, the club must notify the Executive Department no less than 21 days prior to the start of the season. The notification must include the alternative venue, a copy of the written agreement with the venue owner, and the reason for this change. In addition, the nominated venue must be among the stadia approved by the Executive Department of the UAE PL, and the final decision with this regard will be upon the sole discretion of the Board of Directors of the UAE PL.
- 31.4 If a Participating Club decides to change its stadium once the League Season has started, it shall notify the Executive Department at least one week before the intended match day to be hosted at the new stadium. The application for change must include the name of proposed new venue, the reason for the change as well as agreement from the stadium owner. In case of change of venue, the proposed venue should be from the list of stadia already approved by the UAE PL. In addition, all costs related to changing the stadium shall be borne by the Participating Club.
- 31.5 In cases where circumstances prevent the club from playing one or more matches at its own stadium, the club must immediately notify the League's Executive Management, providing the proposed alternative stadium, a copy of the agreement with the owner of the alternative stadium, and the reason for the change. The home club shall bear all rights and obligations related to organizing the match, and the

alternative stadium must be approved by the Executive Department. The final decision in this regard shall be at the discretion of the UAE Pro League.

- 31.6 Each club must make its stadium and pitches available to the League's Executive Management upon request, provided that the request is sent by the Executive Department at least seven days prior to the date on which the League requires use of the stadium. The notice period may be reduced in cases deemed appropriate by the Executive Department.
- 31.7 In case the club does not own its Home Stadium, the club shall guarantee the application of the provisions of article 31.6, in the contractual relation between the club and the owner of the stadium. The UAE PL bears no extra costs other than those related to the match operations.
- 31.8 The Executive Department may carry out stadium inspections at any time before and/or during the competition to check whether the stadium meets the criteria in the UAE PL Stadia Regulations.

## **32. Players' Equipment**

- 32.1 Participating Clubs must comply with the Equipment Regulations approved by the Board of Directors and the UAE FA Board of Directors, which govern the apparel and equipment worn by players and officials in Competition Matches. The UAE PL Equipment Regulations are in force from the time the Participating Club's Official Delegation arrive at a Stadium until the time the Participating Club's Official Delegation departs the stadium.
- 32.2 Each Club shall submit a sample of both their primary and secondary kit colours (shirt, shorts and socks) for both outfield players and goalkeepers to the Executive Department of the UAE PL, provided that one of the team kits is of bright colors and other is of dark colors, at a date determined by the Executive Department of the UAE PL. All items to be used by a Participating Club within the Stadium during the Competition Matches shall be subject to UAE PL's approval of the Executive Department of the UAE PL in accordance with the procedures set by the Equipment Regulations and any other instructions related thereto.
- 32.3 The Match Officials and / or the Match Commissioner and /or the Marketing personnel in the Executive Department of the UAE PL has / have the right and duty to check kit items at

the match venue and are entitled to send such items to the UAE PL Headquarters for further control after the match.

32.4 UAE PL takes final decisions regarding the approval of kits and other items mentioned in the UAE PL Equipment Regulations. UAE PL declines all responsibility and authority in the event of conflicts arising from contract between a Participating Club and its sponsor(s) on account of the advertising provisions of the UAE PL Equipment Regulations. The Participating Club agrees to hold UAE PL harmless from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding kits.

32.5 Any players participating in Competition Matches must have their name and shirt number appearing on the back of their playing shirt, ensuring the following:

32.5.1 The number must be legible to the match officials and spectators in the stadium from a considerable distance, as well as to the TV audience;

32.5.2 The colour of these names and numbers must be noticeably different from that of the players' kit and must either be a contrast colour or appear on a signed – coloured patch. It must contrast (light on dark or vice versa) with the colour of the shirt;

32.5.3 their first official participation, all players must maintain the same shirt number and name for all UAE PL Competitions throughout the entire season. Numbers allocated to a player registered in any other UAE PL Competitions, who have participated in any of the UAE PL competitions, cannot be used again for any other player at the same season, even if he was removed from the team list for any reason.. Numbers are from 1 to 99 with number 1 usually reserved for the goalkeeper.

32.6 The Executive Department of the UAE PL shall determine the kit colours (outfield players and goalkeepers) for each Competition match, provided they wear the same colors of playing equipment approved for ADNOC Pro League matches for the same round, and the Host and/ or Visiting team may change the kit colours to any other kit after addressing the Executive Department in writing at least 4 days upon receipt of the kit colours sheet of the concerned match

The away team may be asked to play using combined kit from its first registered colours, and its second or third registered colours.

When, and only when, the above preferences and procedure still fails to produce a distinctive difference in the colours of the two teams, the home team may be required to wear a combination of its home and away kit or its full away kit, while the away team maintains its home kit. The decision of the referee in this regard is final.

- 32.7 In case all options referred to in article (32-6) hereinabove have been exhausted, the Away club will be given until fifteen (15) minutes before match kick-off, the match will be abandoned and the Home team wins (3-0).
- 32.8 Member Clubs shall bring both their primary and secondary kits (players and goalkeepers) to each Competition match and ensure that neither of the uniforms are similar to the other. If the selection of kit is restricted due to the team not bringing both of its kits, the respective club will be fined AED 5,000 in accordance to the Quality Control Procedure (QCP).

### **33. Conduct of Team Officials & Players**

- 33.1 All players and team officials participating in the Competition shall strictly abide by the principles of sportsmanship and Fair Play in all matches and other UAE PL activities.
- 33.2 Smoking is strictly prohibited on the field of play, media/broadcast areas, and all official areas within the stadium (dressing rooms, players' tunnel and coaches rooms available in the official zone, etc.). Violations of this Article shall be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations.

### **34. Match Filming**

- 34.1 Teams are permitted to record their non-broadcasted matches with one or more technical cameras (video) provided that the number and location of these cameras is pre-determined in each stadium which shall be identified by the Media Officer of the UAE PL.

## **Section 5: Host clubs**

### **35. Stadiums Requirements**

- 35.1 Host Clubs shall undertake to provide all the necessary facilities listed in the UAE PL Stadia Regulations for each Competition Match. Non-compliance with these requirements will result in Host Clubs being fined in accordance with the Quality Control Procedure (QCP).
- 35.2 Once a facility have been determined and approved by the Executive Department of the UAE PL (i.e. media center, press conference room, UAE PL office, medical room, doping control room, etc.), Host Clubs are not allowed to change this facility to another location unless otherwise approved by the Executive Department of the UAE PL. Request to change an approved facility to another location must be made at least one (1) week prior to the match. In case of non-adherence, the call will be penalized in accordance with QCP.

### **36. Match Organization**

- 36.1 For each Competition Match, the Club whose name is mentioned first on the Match Schedule shall be considered as the Host Club, and shall be responsible (at its own cost) for the following, but not limited to:
- 36.1.1 Make appropriate arrangements for the staging of their matches in accordance with the Regulations;
  - 36.1.2 Ensure that a Host Club General Coordinator who is registered and approved by the Executive Department is appointed for every home match of the game;
  - 36.1.3 Ensure all facilities listed in the UAE PL Stadia Regulations are provided for and properly equipped well in advance of each Competition Match;
  - 36.1.4 Ensure proper parking and access to the stadium for all match stakeholders including but not limited to Participating Teams, match officials (those described in Chapter 6 of this regulations), Commercial Affiliates, Media, and fans;
  - 36.1.5 Ensure there is an ample amount of ice, water, and refreshments (at a minimum, Host Club should supply, as refreshments, fruits and sandwiches) in the team dressing rooms, the Referees dressing room, the doping control room, the UAE PL office and the media center;

- 36.1.6 Ensure, for each half's cooling break, there are twenty (20) new clean sponges or towels soaked in icy water (to be provided in cooling box), 10kg ice, twenty-two (22) bottles (500ml) for each team;
  - 36.1.7 Ensure, for each half's cooling break, there are ten (10) new clean sponges soaked in icy water (to be provided in cooling box), 5kg ice, fourteen (14) bottles (500ml) for the referee's team;
  - 36.1.8 Ensure the necessary match day personnel are present at the stadium well in advance of spectator entry to perform their relevant duties (i.e. at least four hours before the start of the match);
  - 36.1.9 Ensure that Ball Kid Coordinator and ball kids are available from two hours before the match until ten (10) minutes after the match. Please refer to the UAE PL Youth Programme regulations for more details;
  - 36.1.10 Ensure that enough and sufficient volunteers and staff members are available in order for the Host Club to fulfill its obligations as indicated in these Regulations and other UAE PL Regulations; and
  - 36.1.11 Guarantee that access to the stadium will be granted to the Match Officials, officials and players of the visiting Club, sponsors, spectators, broadcasters, and the media without any discrimination of gender, race, color, religion, or ancestry;
  - 36.1.12 Be responsible for order and security before, during and after the match. The Host Club may be called to account for incidents of any kind and may be disciplined.
  - 36.1.13 For a smoother coordination and safety and security reasons, players of the Home team or the Away team shall arrive and depart in the team bus.
- 36.2 UAE PL declines all responsibility in the event of conflicts arising from contracts between a club or any of its players, officials, employees, representatives or intermediaries and any third party (including, without limitation, their sponsors, suppliers, manufacturers, broadcasters, intermediaries and players) on account of the provisions of these regulations and/or any other UAE PL regulations and such persons' obligations thereunder.

- 36.3 The Host Club indemnifies, defends and holds the UAE PL, its subsidiaries and all of their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents and other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to any non-compliance by the club or any of its players, officials, employees, representatives or agents with the present regulations and/or any other regulations issued by the UAE PL.
- 36.4 Notwithstanding Article 36.1, with regards to the match in which the League trophy and medals will be presented to the Champion, the UAE PL shall assume total and sole responsibility for the seating and distribution of seats / tickets in the VVIP and VIP areas. For the avoidance of doubt, the Host club bears all operational costs related to the match.

### **37. Public Address Systems, Announcers and Announcements**

- 37.1 The stadium's public address system must be capable of being heard clearly both inside and outside the stadium, above the crowd noise, even in the case of a sudden upsurge in spectator and noise levels.
- 37.2 Trained announcer who is capable of addressing spectators in Arabic and English must be made available. The Board of Directors of the UAE PL will provide Host Clubs with an announcer's script which must be used for each Competition Match.
- 37.3 The public address system must not be used for the dissemination of political messages, to support the home team or for any form of discrimination against the visiting team.
- 37.4 Host Clubs are entitled to play music until fifteen (15) minutes before kick-off and during half time in accordance with UAE PL's Official Match Countdown, but volume levels must

be managed appropriately during player warm up times and specified intervals for on-field Broadcast interviews.

- 37.5 No music may be played during the Match, with the exception of after the goals, whereby the music may be played for a maximum of ten (10) seconds and must cease immediately prior to the recommencement of play.

### **38. The Giant Screen**

- 38.1 The use of the giant screen will be to display match result and time, as well as the logos of both clubs and the competition logo in accordance with other relative Regulations. In case the Giant screen was not operated or stopped during the match for any reason, the club will be subject to a penalty in accordance with QCP.
- 38.2 Host Clubs may screen a live broadcast feed of the match on a giant screen inside the stadium (if applicable), however, all replays are strictly prohibited without exception.
- 38.3 Screening of results or video footage of other Competition Matches either on the giant screen or the public address system is strictly prohibited.

### **39. Safety & Security**

- 39.1 Before the start of each sports season, the Host team undertakes to coordinate with the competent local authorities to specify and approve all necessary security requirements for their stadium, whether in terms of equipment or security tools, to prepare, plan and implement the appropriate security measures inside and around the stadium in all Competition Matches. Those include all appointed persons including: players and officials of both teams, match officials (as specified under Section 6), media representatives, commercial partners, sponsors (Participating Committee and Clubs) and the public.
- 39.2 Host Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their safety and security plans address the following:
- 39.2.1 Each club should appoint a licensed Security Officer (Facility Security Officer) responsible for a prescribed list of duties as per the Executive Regulation of the Federal Law NO.8 of 2014 on the Security of Sports Facilities and Events, and the Safety and Security Manual of the UAE PL

- 39.2.2 The clubs should provide at least (10) individuals of private security companies based on the match importance and number of fans and the organizational matters for the match. In case less than five (10) private security members were present at the start of the match, the referee must wait for 15 minutes and if they are still not present during that period, the match will be cancelled and the host club will be the loser in match by result (3-0).
- 39.2.3 The UAE PL Accreditation System and safety management plan must be in place to control its Home supporters; the Accreditation System shall apply 2 hours before kick-off time.
- 39.2.4 The access to/ or movement on the field of play must be restricted;
- 39.2.5 Assembly points must be designated for emergency evacuation situations;
- 39.2.6 Signage must be in place;
- 39.2.7 Evacuation doors must be operational;
- 39.2.8 An Operations Center must be designated as the primary point for security management;
- 39.2.9 Traffic flows must be properly determined for all stakeholder groups;
- 39.2.10 The Match Officials are protected from the time of their arrival at the stadium until the time they depart the stadium after the match;
- 39.2.11 Spectator access to the field of play must be prevented at all times;
- 39.2.12 Parades and entertainment must be in compliance with national laws;
- 39.2.13 Spectator medical services must be available; and
- 39.2.14 An operation plan for lost children.

39.3 All reasonable security measures must be put in place, at the cost of the Host Club, to protect the commentary area, camera positions, the OB van area, and the equipment of the broadcasters.

39.4 Spectators are strictly forbidden from entering stadiums with items listed on the Prohibited Items List according to Annex (A) of the Safety and Security Manual.

39.5 Fans of participating clubs are allowed to use percussion instruments and loudspeakers into the stadium according to the mechanism approved by the Executive Department as

circulated and/or updated before or during the sports season. The loudspeaker and/or the instruments may not be attached to any electronic devices and the sounds produced must not be amplified (no more than 45 Watt). These loudspeaker and percussion instruments may only be used in the stands for second category ticket holders only. In case of any violation, a fine will be imposed on the club in accordance with the Quality Control Procedures. Further, the Executive Department of the UAE PL has the right to refuse the use of loudspeaker at a certain stadium if the hosting club provide an independent report or document that proves that the use of loudspeaker(s) will affect the safety and security organization of the stadium, or may affect the comfort of patients in the nearby hospitals and medical centers. Notwithstanding the above, UAE PL or the police or the private security personnel have the right to unilaterally prohibit the use of loudspeakers if the sounds or noises made by them affect the referees' performance or safety and security organization.

- 39.6 Fans must behave in a sporting manner when supporting their clubs. They are prohibited from insulting or using racist or sexist language, slogans, actions, or gestures.
- 39.7 Each club is responsible for the behavior of their fans and/ or spectators.
- 39.8 Breaches (and corresponding sanctions) in spectator conduct are listed in accordance with the Disciplinary and UAE PL Regulations.
- 39.9 If the Disciplinary Committee takes a decision to move the match of one of the teams in the competition, the Executive Department shall determine neutral stadium for the match.
- 39.10 10.39 If the host club's facilities or buildings are damaged by fans of the visiting club, the affected club shall notify the League's Executive Management within two business days of the match's kickoff time, in the form of a report including attached photographs of the damage. The League's Executive Department may, based on its assessment, appoint a third party to inspect the losses and damages incurred and, accordingly, request the necessary compensation from the visiting club. This shall not prejudice the League's right to refer the violation to the Disciplinary Committee for additional penalties.

#### **40. Ambulances & Medical Facilities**

- 40.1 For each Competition Match the Host Club, at its own cost, is responsible for providing the

following medial facilities and personnel which must be in place at the stadium as indicated below:

40.1.1 Two ambulances equipped with the minimum requirements for medical equipment, supplies, and medications (according to the circular issued by the Sports Medicine Committee of the Football Association), in addition to the importance of having a paramedic and a driver for each vehicle, provided that the paramedic has a license to practice the profession and is approved by the Ministry of Health or a government medical authority. There must be one ambulance available one hour before the match starts till its end (and after the audience leaving the stadium) whereas the other ambulance shall be at the stadium at least one hour before the match start till its end (and the players and match organizers leaving the stadium). The following will apply:

40.1.1.1 If the ambulances and/or the first-aid specialists are not present at the stadium at the designated time, the Host Club will be fined according to disciplinary committee decision.

40.1.1.2 If the ambulances and/or the first-aid specialists are still not present at the stadium by the designated kick-off, the match shall not start and will be delayed for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes to allow for ambulances to arrive.

40.1.1.3 If the ambulances and/or the first-aid specialists do not arrive by the end of the fifteen (15) minute delay period, the host club shall be considered to have forfeited the match (3-0);

40.1.1.4 If at any time during a Competition match either of the ambulances is required to leave the stadium (for any reason other than a player, a match organizer or a spectator injury), the host club shall immediately inform the UAE PL Match Officials, and in any case the Host Club shall be fined in accordance with the Quality Control Procedure (QCP) and the Disciplinary Regulations.

40.1.2 The host club is committed to enhancing the medical services provided, including ambulances and medical units, for matches expected to have a large attendance, in accordance with the decisions made by the UAE PL.

40.1.3 The paths and parking of the ambulance cars must be void of any hindrances throughout the entire match time. Non-adherence to this article will result in a QCP fine imposed on the non-adherent club.

40.1.4 A medical emergency room dedicated for players and officials must be provided near the dressing room and/or field of play and must be fully equipped with all emergency medical fittings pursuant to the UAE PL Stadia Regulations.

40.1.5 An air-conditioned, well-lighted and ventilated room for doping control shall be provided with all its requirements as per the UAE PL Stadia Regulations.

40.1.6 The following medical services shall be provided on the field:

40.1.6.1 A doctor trained to provide medical emergency services

40.1.6.2 Either two (2) fully charged and operational golf carts – each cart to be operated by one (1) driver and one (1) assistant; or two (2) set of stretcher bearers - each stretcher to be operated by a minimum of four (4) persons provided that those people are fit and are wearing the same sports uniform.

40.1.6.3 In case one golf cart was available, the club shall also ensure that there are two stretchers with two (2) set of stretcher bearers - each staff consists of 4 persons in minimum in addition to the staff of golf cart. In the event that there are two (2) injured players on the field of play at the same time, the stretcher bearers shall be used instead of the golf cart.

#### **41. Access Control (Accreditation)**

41.1 An accreditation card is physical proof of access entitlements to a Controlled Access Area. It is personal and non-transferable and does not grant the pass holder access to a viewing seat. Any person using another person's accreditation card will result in both the offender and the owner of the accreditation card losing the privileges of this card throughout the season. In addition, Quality Control Procedures apply.

- 41.2 The UAE PL Accreditation System for the Competition will be adopted and implemented by all Clubs on match day with the full accreditation system implemented no later than 2 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time of the match and when spectator gates are opened to the public.
- 41.3 When the accreditation system is in place (no later than 2 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time), accreditation card must be worn at all times in a manner that is clearly visible to other persons, particularly security personnel and UAE PL Officials.
- 41.4 The accreditation system is to remain in place until teams and Match Officials have left the Controlled Access Area.
- 41.5 The UAE PL is the sole authority authorized to issue accreditation cards, and it has the right to retain all personal data related to the parties on whose behalf an application for the issuance of an accreditation card is submitted.
- 41.6 All players registered to participate in the competitions organized by the UAE PL in accordance with Article (8), team officials, members of the Club and Participating Teams must apply for an accreditation to access the Controlled Access Area.
- 41.7 Application for accreditation must be made in accordance with the Accreditation Regulations
- 41.8 Should any accreditation be misplaced or lost, the Club shall be required to pay a AED 500 (Five Hundred Dirham) production fee for every card lost, to replace it.

## **42. Flag Protocol**

- 42.1 Host Clubs shall ensure the following protocols are observed at all Competition Matches:
  - 42.1.1 Ensuring that the following flags are flown in a visible location at least two (2) hours prior to kickoff:
    - 42.1.1.1 National flag of United Arab Emirates (dimensions 1.5×2.25m)
    - 42.1.1.2 UAEFA Flag (dimensions 1.5×2.25m)
    - 42.1.1.3 UAE PL Flag (dimensions 1.5×2.25m)

## **43. Insurance**

- 43.1 Host Clubs are responsible for concluding and maintaining insurance coverage for the risks in connection with staging and organizing its home Competition Matches providing for appropriate

guaranteed sums for damages to persons, objects and property, as well as for pure economic losses corresponding to the specific circumstances of the Club and associations concerned. Insurance coverage must include, without limitation:

- 43.1.1 Third-party liability insurance (for all third parties participating in matches or attending the relevant venue);
  - 43.1.2 Spectator accident insurance; and
  - 43.1.3 Stadium insurance.
- 43.2 Host Clubs release the UAE PL of any liability whatsoever with regards to the insured matters in Article (43.1).
- 43.3 Clubs are responsible for the insurance coverage (including hospitalization and surgical operations) of their team, including players and officials, at their own expense, for all Competition Matches. Claims for damages against the UAE PL are expressly excluded, and the participating Clubs shall hold the UAE PL harmless against any such claims.

#### **44. Insurance Liability**

- 44.1 Without prejudice to the insurance coverage of the UAE PL provided in article (43) above, the participating clubs should bear the insurance responsibility on its own expense with a known insurance company against the following risks:
- 44.1.1 Insurance against all types of risks related to participating in the UAE PL's competitions.
  - 44.1.2 Insurance against all risks related to shows and organizing the team matches which must include for example insurance against third party liability (for all parties participating in matches or present in field or stadium) by ensuring reasonable amounts in return for accidents occurring to individuals, losses of lives, tools and assets, in addition to commercial losses related to special circumstances of relative participating clubs.
- 44.2 If the participating club is not the owner of the used stadium, it must provide a proper insurance which includes insurance against third party liability and loss of assets incurred to the owner or lessee of stadium.

- 44.3 The participating club must ensure that the UAE PL is included in all insurance policies – as defined in this regulation and the UAE PL shall be released from all claims and liabilities incurred or related to shows and match organization. In all cases, the UAE PL may request any participating party to make a written commitment (free of any cost) on liability release or protection from damage and/or warranties and/or copying related insurance policies.

#### **45. Liability & Indemnity**

- 45.1 The UAE PL and/or the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Department may appoint a third party to work as a broker, representative or services provider in relation to carrying out the UAE PL's obligations set forth in the Regulations.
- 45.2 The UAE PL its employees and its agents shall not be liable in case of dispute about contracts arising between the Participating Club and players, officials, employees, representatives, agents or third parties (including but not limited to guarantors, providers, manufacturers, media, agents and players) in relation to this regulation and/or any other regulations of the UAE PL and the other obligations of the concerned person under the same.
- 45.3 The Participating Clubs should indemnify, release and defend the UAE PL and its agents, guarantors and/or any third party working as a services provider and/or on behalf of the UAE PL and all its employees, managers, workers/representatives, agents and all persons related to the UAE PL for any damages, responsibilities, liabilities, losses, indemnities, penalties, lawsuits, fines, or expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of any kind or nature whatsoever arising from or in relation to the non-compliance of the Participating Club, players, officials, workers, representatives or agents to this regulation and/or any other regulation issued by the UAE PL.

## **Section 6: Match Officials**

### **46. Referees**

- 46.1 The FA Referees Committee shall appoint the necessary number of Referees for each Competition Match. The required number shall be as follows:
- 46.1.1 Referee
  - 46.1.2 First Assistant Referee
  - 46.1.3 Second Assistant Referee
  - 46.1.4 Fourth Official
- 46.2 In the event where additional referees are requested other than those referred to in Article 46.1 above, the Executive Department of the UAE PL shall be addressed for approval.
- 46.3 Clubs may not request to appoint or not to appoint certain Referees for their matches nor shall they request to change a Referee who is already appointed.
- 46.4 The match referee shall, within a maximum of 8 hours of the match kick-off time, submit the match report into the System.
- 46.5 Referees appointed in Pro League Under 23 matches shall either be experienced international referees and/ or Level (1) and or Level (2) referees only.

### **47. Match Commissioner**

- 47.1 For each Competition Matches, the Executive Department of the UAE PL may appoint a Match Commissioner, whose primary role is to ensure that each Competition Match is conducted in accordance with the Competition Regulations.
- 47.2 The Match Commissioner acts as the UAE PL's official representative at a match and is the authority responsible for ensuring that the match is properly organized and runs smoothly.
- 47.3 The Match Commissioner shall be objective and his behaviour must invariably reflects this principle. He shall constantly be alert to all incidents concerning the match itself.
- 47.4 The match commissioner shall prepare the match report through the electronic system after the end of the match.

47.5 A seat shall be allocated in the stadium for the match commissioner, and its location must offer an optimal, comprehensive view of the entire stadium and be connected to a safe and quick passage to the pitch. A television shall also be provided in front of the commissioner, broadcasting the same match through the official rights-holding broadcasters, including replays and not the direct feed from the production van. If any of the requirements set out in this paragraph are not met, a quality control fine shall be imposed.

#### **48. Referees Assessor**

48.1 The FA Referees Committee shall appoint a Referee Assessor for each Competition Match whose primary role is to evaluate the performance of all Referees (utilizing both live and video reviews) appointed to a particular Match and report back to the Referees' Committee.

48.2 International referee assessors (football) are only appointed in Pro League Under 23 matches.

48.3 The Referee Assessor shall be given a seat in the stadium, as designated by the Technical Committee. The location shall be characterized by a comprehensive, exemplary view of the entire stadium and shall be connected to a safe and fast passage to the field (a television shall also be allocated to the evaluator and placed in front of him). If any of the requirements mentioned in this paragraph are not met, a quality control fine shall be imposed.

#### **49. Access Control Officer**

49.1 The Executive Department may appoint an entry control officer for the Competition matches, whose main role will be to ensure the correct application and use of the Association's accreditation cards and any requirements contained in the Security and Safety Manual.

49.2 Additionally, the Safety & Security Officer shall coordinate with the Host Club and Local Emergency Services to ensure that all security and safety precautions have been taken in each Competition Match.

## **50. Media Officer**

- 50.1 For each Competition Match, the Executive Department may appoint a Media Officer, whose primary role will be to oversee the UAE PL Media Regulations, and the UAE PL TV Broadcast and Production Manual

## **51. Doping Control Officer**

- 51.1 NADO (National Anti-Doping Organization), may appoint a Doping Control Officer for Competition Matches at their discretion.
- 51.2 The Host Club will be responsible for ensuring all the facilities and personal as listed in Article (15) of the Stadia Regulations are available in and place no later than two (2) hours prior to each Competition Match kick-off. The Match Commissioner shall carry out an inspection on the facilities to ensure that the facilities are provided and are in accordance with the Stadia Regulations.

## **52. UAE Pro League Officials**

- 52.1 For each Competition Match, the Technical Committee and/ or the Executive Department of the UAE PL have the right to appoint additional officials, whose primary role is to supervise the match organization, as well as to support the Match Commissioner and help ensure that each Competition Match is held in accordance with the Competition Regulations.

## **Section 7: Administrative Regulations**

### **53. Disciplinary Measures**

- 53.1 Disciplinary measures and appeals are dealt with in compliance with the current UAE FA regulations, UAE PL regulations, the UAE FA Disciplinary Code, the UAE PL Quality Control Procedures, the relevant Competition regulations and UAE PL Circular(s).
- 53.2 The Board of Directors may instruct to initiate investigations should it suspect and / or is aware of any violations of the current UAE FA regulations, UAE PL regulations, the UAE FA Disciplinary Code, the UAE PL Quality Control Procedures, the relevant Competition regulations and UAE PL Circular(s), in case such violations do not fall under the jurisdiction of the UAE FA Disciplinary Committee.
- 53.3 The UAE FA Disciplinary Committee may impose the disciplinary measures for violations of the current UAE FA regulations, UAE PL regulations, the UAE FA Disciplinary Code, the relevant Competition regulations, and UAE PL Circular(s).
- 53.4 The Technical Committee and/or the Technical Department may impose the fines for violations of the relevant Competition regulations, UAE PL regulations and UAE PL Circular(s), in accordance with the Quality Control Procedures.

### **54. Cautions (Yellow Cards)**

- 54.1 Penalties to players resulting from cautions (single yellow cards) shall result in:
- 54.1.1 Every yellow card received by a player in the Competition will result in the player being fined AED 250 for the first yellow card, AED 500 for the second and AED 750 for the third yellow card. The same will be repeated after each third yellow card;
- 54.1.2 An administrative fee of (100 dirhams) one hundred UAE dirhams will be imposed for each yellow card obtained during the competition.
- 54.1.3 If the player receives three (3) cautions in the Competition, he shall be suspended from participating in the next match in the same Competition.

54.1.4 If the player participated an actual participation in three matches in the same competition after the match in which he got the second yellow card (not necessarily consecutive matches) without getting any administrative penalties (yellow or red cards), or any other disciplinary penalties, the second yellow card will be dropped.

54.1.5 If any of the Administrative and Technical team members gets three yellow cards in three different matches of the same competition, that member shall be suspended for one match of the same competition.

54.2 If the result of a Competition Match is abandoned or the Match is terminated or is not completed for any reason, the Disciplinary Regulations shall apply.

54.3 Each Club shall be obliged to execute such penalties either by suspension or payment of any fines and shall bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its players and officials to ensure that all players and officials registered and/or fielded during the competition are eligible to play, in accordance with the final match report submitted to the FA Net after being approved by the referee and Match Commissioner.

54.4 In case a player, or any of the technical, administrative, or medical team members is transferred or loaned to any of the Member Clubs within the season, he maintains his records of yellow card(s). The previous Club must inform the new Club of the yellow cards that he has collected to date and the new Club is responsible to continue the monitoring process.

54.5 At the end of the Competition, all cautions imposed on players shall be dropped subject to the Disciplinary Regulations.

## **55. Expulsions (Red Cards)**

55.1 Players who are sent off as a result of two yellow cards in a single match of the Competition shall:

55.1.1 Be automatically suspended in the next subsequent match in the Competition, subject to the provisions of Article 65(c) of the Disciplinary Regulations, and shall pay a fine of AED 1,500.

55.2 Players who are sent off for a direct red card during any Competition Match shall:

55.2.1 Be automatically suspended for the following next two (2) matches in the Competition. The exception to this rule is for any player who denies the opposing team of a clear goal scoring opportunity (particular by deliberately handling the ball), in which case the player shall then be automatically suspended for one (1) match in the same Competition subject to the provisions of Article 65(c) of the Disciplinary Regulations; and

55.2.2 Pay a fine of AED 2,000 and the amount shall be increased by AED 1,000 for each new sending off case. An administrative fee of AED 250 (two hundred and fifty UAE dirhams) will be imposed for each red card obtained during the competition.

55.3 one of the members of the technical or administrative team is sent off after the second yellow card, he shall be suspended for one match in the same competition.

55.4 If one of the members of the technical or administrative team is sent off after a direct red card, he shall be suspended for one match in the same competition.

55.5 At the end of the Competition, all yellow cards imposed on the technical and administrative teams shall be dropped. Red cards will be transferred to the next competition.

55.6 In case suspensions are imposed on the technical or administrative, and medical team (except for the head coach and the assistant coach) are not served, the violation shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee which shall impose either of the following:

55.6.1 a fine of 100,000 AED. The suspension penalty shall be served in the following match where the penalty is servable.

55.7 If the head coach or the assistant coach did not serve the suspension, the penalty shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee to impose one of the following:

55.7.1 The team is considered to have lost the match with a score of (3-0) or if the score is greater, the greater score shall prevail, and the suspension penalty will be imposed in the subsequent enforceable match.

55.8 Notwithstanding the relevant articles of the Disciplinary regulations may impose additional sanctions and/or fines. The Disciplinary Committee may also determine that the suspensions be served in other competitions.

- 55.9 If a player is sent off for a direct red card offence, this shall not affect the number of cautions previously received by him.
- 55.10 If the result of any match of the Competition has been cancelled or the match has been terminated or has not been completed for any reason whatsoever, then the sanction shall be served in the net match in the same Competition.
- 55.11 In case a player, case a player, or any of the technical, administrative, or medical team members is transferred or loaned to any of the Member Clubs within the season, he maintains his records of yellow card(s) which he got until the last day before the transfer. The previous Club must inform the new Club of the yellow cards that he has collected to date and the new Club is responsible to continue the monitoring process.

## **56. Serving of Suspension**

- 56.1 Suspensions from participation in Competition Matches shall be served in the following manner:
- 56.1.1 Players shall be automatically suspended for one (1) match in the competition after obtaining three (3) single yellow cards in the Competition;
  - 56.1.2 Notwithstanding the Disciplinary Regulations, a match will only be calculated within a player's suspension period if the match in question has officially started. Accordingly, matches abandoned before kick-off are not calculated within a player's suspension period.
  - 56.1.3 In the event that the suspension cannot be served in the Competition due to last match of the Competition, the suspensions will be implemented as follows:
    - 56.1.3.1 If the season ends, the suspension penalty is implemented in the next match of the club at the beginning of the following season in the first official match in which the penalized player is eligible to participate.
    - 56.1.3.2 In case the League Season has not ended, the suspension shall be implemented in the first official match in which the penalized player is eligible to participate.
  - 56.1.4 If a suspended player is transferred or loaned to any of the Member Clubs, the player must serve his suspension with his new Club. The player's previous Club shall have

to inform the new Club of the penalties imposed on such player in order to be fully served according to the articles herein.

56.2 Notwithstanding Article (56.1.3), the Disciplinary Committee may determine that suspensions are to be served in the Competition and other competitions.

56.3 Annex No. (1) of the ADNOC Professional League Regulations explains the mechanism for implementing expulsion and suspension, the areas subject to control, and which players and any of the technical, administrative, or medical staff who are excluded as a result of expulsion or in implementation of the suspension penalty are entitled to be present in.

### **57. Violence by Players and/or Officials**

57.1 Any player or official reported for indiscipline or violent conduct anywhere in the stadium, including but not limited to the field of play, the changing room and the surrounding areas of the Stadium, by the referee or the Match Commissioner shall be dealt with in accordance with the UAE FA Regulations, UAE PL Regulations, or any other relative regulations.

### **58. Protests and Appeals**

58.1 Judicial procedures will be taken with this regard in accordance with the relevant regulations of judicial committees in the UAE FA and/or the regulations and directives of the UAE PL.

### **59. Trophies and Medals**

59.1 The winner of the Competition shall be awarded the following:

59.1.1 The Competition trophy;

59.1.2 A replica of the original trophy;

59.1.3 Forty (45) golden medals; and

59.1.4 Prize money, as per Article (61.1).

59.2 Players and team officials have the right to board the podium to receive the medals up to a maximum of (36) persons, including the head coach, and a minimum of (18) players

and the head coach. In case of violation of the maximum or minimum numbers, a fine of one million AED (1,000,000) shall be imposed on the offending club.

- 59.3 In any case, the provisions of Article (59.2) shall not apply. to Chairman of the Sports Club and/or Chairman of the Football Company.
- 59.4 The trophy shall be kept by the Champion by way of trust and should be returned to the UAE PL at least two (2) months before the date of the final match of the Competition. The Cup Champion shall be responsible for any loss or damage of the same and must return the Cup in the same condition or otherwise pay a compensation estimated by the Executive Department. In all cases the Club shall have to report to the UAE PL any theft, breakage or damage occurring to the Cup as soon as it takes place.
- 59.5 The Club which wins the Cup for any given season will be presented with a memorial replica of the original shield for their permanent possession.
- 59.6 The trophy shall become the permanent property of the Club that wins the Competition three (3) times consecutively or four (4) times intermittently.
- 59.7 If any Club acquires the trophy in accordance with Article 59.6 above, any non-consecutive League Championships by other Clubs shall be reset and will not be considered when calculating future possession of the trophy in accordance with the same Article.

## **Section 8: Financial Regulations**

### **60. Fines**

- 60.1 Without prejudice to the procedures followed pursuant to article (54) & (55), all fines imposed on any club or its players or representatives should be paid and they will be automatically deducted from the money due to the Club by UAE PL at the end of the League Season.

### **61. Prize Money**

- 61.1 The prize money to be awarded for the League shall be communicated to Participating Clubs in a circular letter from the UAE PL after the conclusion of the League Season.

## **Section 9: Final Provisions**

### **62. Special Provisions**

62.1 Any previous judgment set forth in a regulation or decision incompatible with this Regulation shall be deemed invalid and shall be effective as of the League Season of 2026/2027. However, in case of any conflict with the Statute of the UAE PL, the provisions set forth in the Statute of the UAE PL shall prevail.

62.2 The approved Match Operations Protocol, the amendments thereto, and any the decisions of competent authorities in the UAE considered an integral part of this Contract and complementary to its provision.

### **63. Matters Not Provided for and Force Majeure**

63.1 The Board of Directors of the UAE PL has the right to decide on matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of force majeure, whose decision are final and unappealable before any judicial or arbitrary bodies or entities.

63.2 The Board of Directors of the UAE PL has the right to make decision on cases of force majeure and states of emergency, and such decisions are final and unappealable before any judicial or arbitrary bodies or entities.

### **64. Ratification and Approval**

64.1 These regulations are prepared and set by the Executive Department of the UAE PL and ratified by the UAE PL Board on 30/06/2026.