



## **AFL Asia Championships Match Rules and Regulations**

**(Version 1.2 - 2 Sep Final Draft)**

**The AFL Asian Championships is conducted under the control of AFL Asia in partnership with the host Club.**

**It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that all appointed officials are fully conversant with the contents of these Match Rules and Regulations.**

### **1. GENERAL**

#### **1.1 Definitions**

In these Match Rules and Regulations unless the contrary intention appears:-

**“AFL Asia”** means the controlling body for Australian Rules Football in Asia.

**“AFL Asia Official”** means any person appointed by the Competition Manager or AFL Asia, to assist in the conduct of this competition.

**“AFL Asia Committee”** means the committee appointed at the annual AGM to oversee all AFL Asia activities.

**“AFL Asia Champs Subcommittee”** means the committee appointed by AFL Asia to oversee the rules, regulations and management of the competition.

**“Competition Manager”** means the person who is appointed to oversee and manage all aspects of the tournament. This person will usually Chair the AFL Asia Champs Subcommittee and host club’s Organising Committee.

**“Club” or “AFL Asia Member Club”** means and includes each Australian Football Club which has paid AFL Asia membership fees and intends to enter at least one “Team” to participate in the Competition.

**“Competition” or “Event”** means the AFL Asia Championships.

**“Host Club”** means the AFL Asia member club that has been selected by the AFL Asia Committee to host the AFL Asia Championships.

**“Laws of Australian Football”** means any laws of the game of Australian Football adopted by the AFL.

**“Organising Committee”** means a committee appointed by the host club to organise competition logistics and work with the AFL Asia Champs Subcommittee management of the Competition.

**“Player”** means a person eligible and selected to play for a Team competing in the Event.

**“Team”** means a Team of an AFL Asia Member Club competing in the competition.

**“Team Member”** includes without limitation all Players, Coaches, runners, trainers, Managers, officials or any person performing any duties (paid or unpaid) for or on behalf of a Team.

## **1.2 Construction and Amendment of Regulations**

- (a) AFL Asia shall interpret all provisions contained in these Match Rules and Regulations and any interpretation or application by AFL Asia of any of the provisions contained in these Regulations shall be final and binding on every person bound by these Match Rules and Regulations.

- (b) AFL Asia may from time to time amend these Match Rules or Regulations or make such further or other Match Rules and Regulations as it in its absolute discretion deems fit.

## **2. ENTRY INTO COMPETITION AND COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS**

### **2.1 Application**

Subject to any terms and conditions of entry determined by AFL Asia, each AFL Asia Member Club or Association may enter one Team to participate in each Division of the Competition by submitting a nomination form.

### **2.2 Number of Teams**

AFL Asia may in its absolute discretion decide the number of Teams which will compete in the Event. A Club's entry of a Team in the Event is subject to a position being available.

### **2.3 Bound to Regulations and Other Rules**

(a) By participating in the Event, each Team, Team Member and Club entering the Team is deemed to be bound by and shall comply with:-

- (i) these Match Rules and Regulations;
- (ii) the Laws of Australian Football; and
- (iii) any resolutions, determinations, rules or regulations made by AFL Asia or its representatives in relation thereto.

(b) Before competing in its first match, a Team must complete and lodge with the Competition Manager the "Team Registration Sheet" attached as Annexure I, signed by either the Team Manager,

President or his nominee.

### **3. DATE OF COMPETITION**

AFL Asia in cooperation with the Host Club shall determine the dates of the Competition after consideration of availability, with preference being for the Event to be held two weeks after the AFL Grand Final or as soon as possible after that date.

### **4. VENUES**

All matches shall be played at venues determined by the AFL Asia Champs Subcommittee in cooperation with the Host Club.

### **5. FORMAT OF COMPETITION**

#### **5.1 Divisions**

(a) There will be two men's divisions. First Division will be 16-a-side competition, Second Division 12-a-side competition.

(b) Clubs are to nominate Teams for either First, Second Division or both Divisions. Teams will be placed into the 2 divisions at the discretion of the AFL Asia Champs Subcommittee based on the Club's preference as noted in the nomination, recent results, team lists, scheduling logistics and any other factors deemed to be seen as relevant by the Champs Subcommittee.

#### **5.2 Structure of Schedule**

The structure for AFL Asia Championships will be determined by the AFL Asia Champs Subcommittee, with preference for;

- A minimum of 3 preliminary round games for each Team
- Semi-finals and a Grand Final

### **5.3 Points**

For all preliminary games Teams are to be awarded:

4 points for a win, 0 for a loss & 2 for a draw.

### **5.4 Finals**

At the completion of the preliminary matches, the top four teams will compete in the Semi Finals (teams will be ranked by points and percentage). The winners of the Semi Finals will then compete in the Grand Final.

## **6. MATCH CONDITIONS**

### **6.1 Length of Games**

Preliminary games shall be in half-hour blocks, consisting of 2x12 minute halves with 3-minute half time and 3-minutes break between games.

Finals games shall be in 40-minute blocks, with 2x15min halves with 5-minute half time and 5-minute break between games.

The Competition Manager may in their absolute discretion alter the duration of each game if necessary.

### **6.2 Timekeeping**

Due to the necessity to keep to a tight schedule, a centrally controlled siren will sound right on the designated start and end time of both halves for both grounds. The game will officially commence when the Umpire blows his/her whistle and conducts the first bounce, as soon as possible after the sounding of the siren, once all players are in position.

Timekeepers shall sound a 1-minute warning prior to the commencement time for each half and again to start the clock each half, regardless of if teams are in place.

Time keepers for all matches shall be appointed by the Competition Manager.

All time keepers shall follow the instructions of the Competition Manager (as amended from time to time) as set out in team managers meeting.

### **6.3 1-minute rule and “No Show” penalties**

If a team is not in position after 1-minute of the sounding of each siren to start play, a penalty of 1 goal per minute will follow until they take the field and the umpire’s whistle is blown to start play.

The first goal would be awarded to the team on the field at the 1.00min mark, up to a maximum of 12 goals (at 12.00min). For example, if the umpire’s whistle to start the game is blown at the 4.25min mark, the team that took the field and were in position to play on the first siren would start 24-0 up.

If both teams are not in position on the sounding of the first siren, the timekeeper will only begin the 1-minute count once one of the team’s players are in position and is notified to do so by the central umpire.

If a team has still not shown up on the sounding of the half time siren, the game will be awarded to the team on the ground and a score of 72-0 will apply.

The timekeeper will be responsible for keeping track of the time with the central umpire responsible awarding the appropriate penalty in liaison with the Head Official at the end of the half.

### **6.4 No Drawn Matches in Finals**

(a) Preliminary Games – No overtime will be played in the preliminary games. Both teams will be awarded 2 points. (4 points for a win, 0 for a loss)

(b) Semi Finals – Should scores be tied at the end of play, the ball will be immediately returned to the center square as if a goal had been scored, for a “Golden Goal” period of play, where the first

team to kick a goal will be declared the winner. Teams will not switch ends or coaches allowed onto the field before Golden Goal period, play is to continue as soon as possible.

(c) Grand Final – Should scores be tied at the end of play, 2x5-minute overtimes will be played with 1-minute break to allow players to change ends in between periods. Coaches will not be allowed on the ground in between periods. Should the scores still be tied at the end of the overtime period, on the sounding of the siren the umpire will return the ball to the center square for a Golden Goal period of play.

## **6.5 Coin Toss**

The Captain (or representative) of each team must attend the Marshall's Tent at half-time of the game preceding theirs. Team sheets are to be submitted, and the coin toss will take place by the designated umpire or AFL Asia official.

## **7. TEAM COMPOSITION**

### **7.1 Squad and playing numbers**

(a) Division 1 Teams will be able to select a squad of 26 players (16-a-side and 10 interchange players). There will be no additional emergencies to replace injured players should they arise.

(b) Division 2 Teams will be able to select a maximum squad of 20 players (12-a-side and 8 interchange players). There will be no additional emergencies to replace injured players should they arise.

(c) Teams are able to alter the number of players for each game by mutual agreement between both teams. If one team does not want to increase or decrease playing numbers, their opposition must play to the designated numbers as set above. If an agreement is put in place, teams must notify AFL Asia and the Head Official before the start of play.

### **7.2 Qualification for Finals**

A player must have played in at least 2 preliminary games to be

eligible to play in the Semi Finals.

A player must have played in at least 3 games (Preliminary and/or the Semi Final) to be eligible to play in the Grand Final.

### **7.3 Movement of players between first and seconds teams**

Up to 2 players may be brought up from Second division into the same Club's firsts team to replace players suffering tournament ending injuries. Approval must be sought prior to the move from the Competition Manager and normal Qualification for Finals requirements (noted above) will still apply.

Movement of players from First Division down to Second Division is not be permitted.

### **7.4 Seconds Teams**

Clubs fielding two teams are obliged to pick their best team for their First Division team. Any Club that is seen to have players in Second Division to who should be clearly playing First Division will have the other Clubs to answer to.

## **8. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

### **8.1 Ring-Ins**

To promote a fair competition, we do not want to see players brought into a team from outside of the Club, purely to help a team's chances in the Asian Champs.

To qualify for Asian Champs a player must have played with that team at a previous Asian Championships, or have in the last 12 months played with that club in an Official AFL Asia fixture (including recognized domestic competitions such as SCAFL, GDAFL, PAFL, China Cup, etc)

While it is hard to police, the spirit of Asian Champs is also that all players are, or have been at some time, long-term (longer than a holiday) residents of the country who he/she is playing with.



The following is a guideline:

### Acceptable

A former player who has previously played at an Asian Champs with that Club and has relocated to another country.

### Unacceptable

A player who has not played with the team or has not lived in that country before and is brought in for the Asian Champs specifically because of his playing ability.

### Frowned upon

A WAFL player who has never resided in the country of the Club who he/she would like to play with, but attended the Manila Cup earlier in the year to gain qualification for Asian Champs.

## **8.2 Local Players**

(a) All Teams in both First and Second Division are required to name at least two “Asian-Nationals” in their Squad and have at least one “Asian-National” on the field at all times.

(b) A Player is deemed an “Asian National” if:

- . (i) the Player is or has been predominantly resident in the country of an AFL Asia Member Club between 10 and 18 years of age; or
- . (ii) the Player is a citizen of the country of an AFL Asia Member Club at the time when the Competition is conducted.

(c) If a Team fails to name or present any “Asian Nationals” in their squad for any Asian Champs game, they will be required to play one man short for that game and two players less on the interchange.

(d) If a Team names only one “Asian National” in their squad, they will not be allowed an interchange should that player need to leave

the field at any time and play with one player less on the interchange.

(d) If at any time a team fails to have an “Asian National” present in the game with a full quota of non-Asian Nationals on the field, they will be penalized one goal against them immediately following a head count.

(e) The Captain of a Team can request a head count with the central umpire should a Team wish for a confirmation of the “Asian National” present of the ground. Should the above criteria not be met, the Field Umpire will signal the goal umpires to award one goal against the offending team and require either an Asian National to enter the field or a Non-Asian National to leave the field.

### **8.3 Exemptions**

The AFL Asia Asian Champs Subcommittee may, on a case by case basis, show some flexibility in applying clauses 8.1 and 8.2 if it is satisfied that the Club is conducting activities to grow and develop its playing base beyond the traditional expat populations and the exemption is in the best interests of the Competition. Submissions in this regard must be made in writing to the Competitions Manager.

### **8.4 Libba Exemption**

If a player has won an AFL Grand Final within the previous month, he is permitted to play for a Second Division Team at Asian Champs. AFL Asia takes no responsibility for any breach of contractual obligations imposed by the AFL or its Clubs by that player taking the field.

## **9. TEAM REGISTRATIONS**

All teams will be required to complete the online player registration form a week prior to the Event, noting the last game that each player played for that Club and identifying which players are Asian

Nationals. Clubs fielding both firsts and seconds teams will also be required to pick final squads by the same date.

All teams will have **access** to this list and be able to submit objections to the AFL Asia Champs Committee preferably as soon as possible via email or at the President's Meeting on the Friday night prior to Champs. If any team does overstep the mark in terms of ring-ins or local players, then it's the other clubs they'll have to answer to and the risk of disqualification. **Common sense and fair play is expected!**

Team sheets at the officials tent will need to be filled out by team officials before each game noting their list of 26 or 22 players. Teams who add players during the game will be disqualified and forfeit points for the game.

## **10. LAWS OF THE GAME**

Unless otherwise provided in these Match Rules and Regulations, matches will be played in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football.

10.1 There will not be an interchange zone area but teams are encouraged not to allow a substitute onto the ground until a player has fully crossed over the boundary line close to where the team's officials are (unless in the case of injury).

10.2 (25 meter penalties will apply, not 50 meters).

10.3 The Order Off law contained in the Laws of Australian Football (Section 20

[http://www.aflcommunityclub.com.au/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Coach\\_AFL/2017\\_Laws\\_of\\_Australian\\_Football.pdf](http://www.aflcommunityclub.com.au/fileadmin/user_upload/Coach_AFL/2017_Laws_of_Australian_Football.pdf)) shall apply as follows:-

- . (a) **Red Card** A Player ordered from the field for the remainder of the match under Law 20.2 of the Laws of Australian Football shall be shown a **Red Card**.

- . (b) **Yellow Card** A Player shall be shown a **Yellow Card** and ordered from the field for a three (3) minute period of match playing time for all other reportable offences prescribed in the Laws of Australian Football other than the reportable offences listed in Law 20.2. The Interchange Steward shall be responsible for administering the 3-minute period. The Player need not be reported to be ordered from the field.
- . (c) Players ordered off the field may not be replaced

10.4 In the case of a particularly serious offence, AFL Asia and its Officials will have the right to ban a player for the remainder of the competition. In this instance, the player can be replaced for the next game.

10.5 Time wasting and abusive language rules also apply to runners, water bearers, coaches and interchange players. If need be, Officials will have the right to order that club to remove the Captain for 3 minutes in the sin-bin.

10.6 Each team is permitted one team runner and 2 water bearers.

10.7 Head counts. Only a captain can request a head count from the central umpire. If requested, the teams must immediately line up in the center of the ground for a count. Any player observed to leave the field will be counted.

10.8 If there are extra players on the field, that team (applies to both) will have their score reset to zero. If there are no extra players on the field – the opposing captain will get a free kick, plus 25-meter penalty to restart the game.

## **11. COMPLAINTS**

### **11.1 Person May Make Complaint**

A President of a Club or Coach of a Team who is directly affected by an act or omission which may contravene a breach of these

Match Rules and Regulations may lodge a Complaint with the Competition Manager as soon as possible after the Game has been completed.

### **11.2 Competition Manager to Investigate**

Upon receiving a Notice of Complaint, the Competition Manager shall investigate the matter consulting with any parties deemed necessary.

The Competition Manager or may also investigate any matter that has been referred by an umpire or steward or which he or she considers relevant to whether or not a person has contravened these Match Rules and Regulations.

The Investigation by the Competition Manager shall be:-

- (a) inquisitorial in nature;
- (b) conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the matter permits; and
- (c) be conducted and concluded as soon as practicable.

### **11.3 Determination of Complaint**

The Competition Manager will make a determination on the complaint following liaising with any and all AFL Asia officials present, any relevant tournament officials or Club Presidents.

The Competition Manager may impose such penalties and make such orders and give such directions in each case as he or she in his or her absolute discretion thinks fit.

**11.4 Failure to Co-operate** A person who, in the opinion of the Competition Manager, fails to fully observe and comply with Regulation 12.2, shall:

- (a) be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is prejudicial to the interests of AFL Asia and the conduct of the

Competition; and

(b) be dealt with by the Competition Manager as they in their absolute discretion thinks fit.

## **12. INSURANCE**

AFL Asia holds no Insurance Coverage for AFL Asia Championships and takes no responsibility for any accidents or injuries that occur at the Event. Players are wholly responsible for their own insurance while competing at Asian Championships and should not compete unless appropriate Insurance has been obtained.