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香港足球總會
HONG KONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

2022/2023

HKFA RESERVE LEAGUE

REGULATIONS

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Definitions

In these Regulations, the terms listed below have the following meanings (unless the context specifically indicates otherwise):

AFC	Asian Football Confederation
Competition	The competition called the “2022-23 HKFA Reserve League”
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIFA Code of Ethics	FIFA’s Code of Ethics in force from time to time.
FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players	FIFA’s Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players in force from time to time.
Force Majeure	For any abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, subsidence, structural damage, Government orders closure of competitions or training grounds due to pandemic or other natural physical disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, terrorist action, civil commotion and any legislation, regulation, ruling or omissions (including failure to grant any necessary permissions for reasons outside the control of either party) of any relevant government, court or any competent national or international authority.
Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA)	The Hong Kong Football Association Limited, whose registered office is situated at 55 Fat Kwong Street, Homantin, Kowloon, Hong Kong
HKFA Constitution	The Articles of Association of the Hong Kong Football Association Limited in force from time to time.
HKFA Disciplinary Committee	The committee established by HKFA to investigate, inquire and issue sanctions.
HKFA Appeal Committee	The committee established by HKFA to deal with appeal matters.
HKFA Disciplinary Code	The Disciplinary Code of the Hong Kong Football Association Limited in force from time to time.
HKFA Referees Regulations	The Referees Regulations of the Hong Kong Football Association Limited in force from time to time.

Home Team	The playing team whose name first appears in respect of a Match of the Competition on the Competition’s fixture list.
IFAB	The International Football Association Board (IFAB) is the body responsible for enactment and amendment of the Laws of the Games.
Match(es)	A football match forming part of the Competition.
Participating Club(s)	A club and clubs has/have its/their team participating in the HKFA Reserve League.
Players	Any of the registered playing members of the Participating Club
These Regulations	These regulations refer to the articles of this Competition Regulations
Refereeing Officials	The referee, assistant referees and 4 th official duly appointed by HKFA to officiate at the Match (es).
Rules of HKFA	The “Rules of Association” of the Hong Kong Football Association Limited in force from time to time.
Title Sponsor	The sponsor granted the right to have its agreed brand identity associated with name of the Competition.
Visiting Team	The playing team whose name last appears in respect of a Match of the Competition on the Competition’s fixture list.

Interpretation

For the purposes of these Regulations, and provided the context so permits:

- (a) the words importing the singular number shall include the plural and vice versa;
- (b) the words importing any particular gender shall include all other genders;
- (c) references to statutory provisions shall be construed as references to those provisions as they may be amended or re-enacted;
- (d) the headings in these Regulations are for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation;
- (e) reference to persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (f) unless otherwise stated, the provision of HKFA Constitution shall prevail in the event of any conflict with these Regulations.

Section A: General Provisions

1. Official Name
 - 1.1. The Competition shall be officially called the “2022-23 HKFA Reserve League”. HKFA reserves the rights to add the name of the Title Sponsor or to change the entire competition name into the name of the Title Sponsor.
2. Governance and Responsibility
 - 2.1. The Competition shall be wholly governed by HKFA, which may exercise its administrative and judiciary powers.
 - 2.2. Unless otherwise stated in these Regulations, the current HKFA Constitution, rules, regulations, codes, guidelines, circulars or directives in force at the time of the Competition are binding for all parties participating and involving in the Competition (including but not limited to the players, team officials, referees or competition staff, etc.).

Section B: Participating Clubs

3. Participating Clubs
 - 3.1. It is optional for the participating clubs of 2022-23 Hong Kong Premier League to send their reserve team to participate in the Competition.
4. Entry Form and Competition Expenses
 - 4.1. Participating clubs must submit the completed entry form in the designated period concluded by HKFA. Otherwise it will not be accepted.
 - 4.2. The relevant expenses of the Competition shall be paid by the participating teams equally, which are including but not limited to referees’ fee, the allowance for the related competition staff, floodlight fee, venue charge, insurance, trophy and award expenses, other expenses related to the competition or the expenses and charges that HKFA Board decided to be collected.

5. Number of Participating Teams

5.1. The number of teams in the Competition shall be determined by HKFA. The maximum number shall not exceed ten (10) teams for 2022-23 HKFA Reserve League.

6. Name of Playing Team

6.1. Except in the case as described in Art. 6.2, the official name of a Participating Club shall be used as the name of its playing teams.

6.2. A Participating Club may apply for HKFA's permission to use its main sponsor's name as the name of its playing team. The participating club shall submit the application according to the application procedure concluded by HKFA.

7. Withdrawal

7.1. If a Participating Club withdraws from the Competition after entering or on course of the Competition after it has started, except in cases of force-majeure recognized by HKFA, the relevant matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee or appropriate HKFA bodies for handling, including but not limited as follows:

7.1.1. All its matches cancelled and the record of the matches expunged (except all disciplinary record);

7.1.2. Imposition of fine:

7.1.2.1. Withdrawal before the first match of the competition: a maximum fine of HK Dollars Ten Thousand (HK\$10,000);

7.1.2.2. Withdrawal after the first match of the competition: a maximum fine of HK Dollars Ten Thousand (HK\$10,000);

7.1.2.3. Withdrawal after its team played the first match of the competition: a maximum fine of HK Dollars Twenty Thousand (HK\$20,000);

7.1.3. Additional sanctions depending on the gravity of the situation, then to HKFA for final decision.

Section C: Competition System

8. Competition System

8.1. The competition shall be played in a double round robin format.

8.2. HKFA reserves the right to modify the competition system.

9. Pointing System and Ranking System

- 9.1. The participating teams' position in the league table shall be determined by the number of points obtained in the competition. The team obtained the highest number of points being at the top of the table while the team obtained the lowest number of points being at the bottom. The pointing system for each match is as follow:
 - 9.1.1. The winner of the match shall be awarded three (3) points;
 - 9.1.2. Each team participating in a match which ends in a draw shall be awarded one (1) point;
 - 9.1.3. The loser of the match shall not get any points.
- 9.2. If any two (2) or more participating teams have obtained the same number of points, the positions of the teams concern shall be determined as follows by order of priority:
 - 9.2.1. Number of points obtained in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned, higher placed team shall be the team with the higher number of points;
 - 9.2.2. Goal difference, which means, the difference between the total number of goal scored by and against a team in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned, and higher placed team shall be the team with the higher goal difference;
 - 9.2.3. Number of goals scored by a team in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned, and higher placed team shall be the team with more goals scored;
 - 9.2.4. If, after having applied Art. 9.2.1. to 9.2.3., participating teams still have an equal ranking, Art. 9.2.1. to 9.2.3. are reapplied exclusively to the matches between the participating teams in question to determine their final rankings. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, Art. 9.2.5. to 9.2.8. will be applied;
 - 9.2.5. Goal difference, which means, the difference between the total number of goal scored by and against a team in all its matches of the Competition, and higher placed team shall be the team with the higher goal difference;
 - 9.2.6. Number of goals scored by a team in all its matches of the Competition, and higher placed team shall be the team with more goals scored;
 - 9.2.7. The score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the competition, and higher placed team shall be the team with the lower score. The point system for each yellow and red card is as follow:
 - 9.2.7.1. Each yellow card gets 1 point;
 - 9.2.7.2. Each red card as a consequence of two yellow cards gets 3 points;
 - 9.2.7.3. Each direct red card gets 3 points;
 - 9.2.7.4. Each yellow card followed by a direct red card get 4 points;
 - 9.2.8. Drawing of lots (in the case of deciding the champion, a play-off match will be arranged, and the playing time of the play-off match will be held in accordance with Art. 18).

- 9.3. If a participating team withdraws from the competition after the start of the competition, the related match record (except all disciplinary record) which its playing team has participated shall be expunged from the league table (Refer to Art. 7).
- 9.4. The Participating Club which is at the top of the league table at the end of the Competition shall be the Reserve League Champion and the second top club shall be the Runners-up.

Section D: Match Venue and Fixtures

10. Match Venue

- 10.1. HKFA is responsible for the venue arrangement.

11. Arrangement of Fixtures

- 11.1. The Competition will be held from January to May 2023. (In case of unusual weather or special reasons, the Competition may be postponed to start and end)
- 11.2. HKFA shall be responsible for drawing up the fixtures of the Competition and the participating teams shall play in all their matches so arranged. The fixture list containing match information including but not limited to the match dates, kick-off times, venues, Home Teams (first-named) and Visiting Teams (last-named) shall be disseminated by HKFA to participating clubs before the commencement of a season as soon as it is fixed. HKFA reserves the right to make changes to the fixtures.
- 11.3. Fixture list shall be disseminated to participating clubs through the contact information (e.g. address, facsimile or e-mail) submitted by the clubs. It is deemed to have been served once the fixture list is sent out via post, fax or e-mail.
- 11.4. All intellectual property, copy and other rights of the fixture list shall belong to HKFA.
- 11.5. Unless the participating team received the notification by HKFA that the match will not be played as scheduled 2.5 hours before the scheduled kick-off time, the participating team shall attend the match as usual.
- 11.6. If the match cannot be commenced or abandoned due to the cases of force majeure recognized by HKFA, HKFA has the right to reschedule the match. The decision of HKFA shall be final and not subject to appeals.

12. Re-schedule of a Match

12.1. Any request for re-scheduling of a match due to special reasons must be made to the Secretariat in written notice. HKFA will re-schedule the competition as requested when the reasons indicated are due and proper. HKFA has the ultimate authority to make the final decision on match re-scheduling. To ensure the fairness of the competition, except the unusual weather, any request for re-scheduling of a match on the last two league weeks will not be accepted unless a special reason have been provided.

13. Cancellation of Matches

13.1. If a match cannot commence on time due to force majeure or any other incidents (including but not limited to the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc.), the referee can delay or cancel the match depending on the actual situation. Referee will reserve the right for final decision.

13.2. In the case of a cancelled match as described in Art. 13.1., HKFA has the right to reschedule the match. The decision of HKFA shall be final and not subject to appeals.

14. Abandonment of Matches

14.1. If a match in progress is stopped by the referee because of force majeure or any other incidents (including but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc.), the referee can suspend the match to let the condition to improve sufficiently to resume the match, or referee can declare the match to have been abandoned depending on the actual situation. Referee will reserve the right for final decision.

14.2. In the case of an abandoned match as described in Art 14.1., HKFA shall decide whether the match result at the time of abandonment is valid or whether a replay shall be organized by taking sporting and organizational considerations into account, and HKFA shall also decide the match to replay in full or in part a match which is abandoned. The decision of HKFA shall be final and not subject to appeals.

15. Non-fulfillment of Fixture

15.1. If a participating team absences from a match of the Competition rendering the match unplayed, except in cases of force majeure or any other incidents recognized by HKFA (including but not limited to the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure etc.), the relevant matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for handling, including but not limited to the following:

15.1.1 The match will be deemed to be forfeited, the match will be penalized as the opponent wins 3:0, and three (3) points will be awarded to opponent;

15.1.2 Imposition of fine:

15.1.2.1 Forfeit from a scheduled a match: a fine of HK\$3,000* and the related match expenses. (*If the team repeats the violation, the Disciplinary Committee will impose a heavier fine on the team concerned)

15.1.3 Additional sanctions depending on the gravity of the situation, then to HKFA for final decision.

16. Failure to Complete the Match

16.1. If a participating team fails to complete a match, except in cases of force majeure or any other incidents recognized by HKFA (including but not limited to the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc.), the relevant matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for handling, including but not limited to the following:

16.1.1. The match will be deemed to be forfeited, the match will be penalized as the opponent wins 3:0 or maintains the match result at the time when the match abandoned (if the result is better than 3:0), and three (3) points will be awarded to opponent;

16.1.2. A fine of HK\$3,000* and the related match expenses. (If the team repeats the violation, the Disciplinary Committee will impose a heavier fine on the team concerned);

16.1.3. Additional sanctions depending on the gravity of the situation, then to HKFA for final decision.

Section E: Technical Regulations

17. Laws of the Game
 - 17.1. Except otherwise stated in these Regulations, all matches of the Competition shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force and as laid down by the International Football Association Board (IFAB). In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.
18. Duration of the Match
 - 18.1. Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two (2) periods of forty-five (45) minutes, with a half-time interval not more than fifteen (15) minutes.
 - 18.2. In the case of a play-off match in accordance with Art. 9.2.8., a penalty shootout as defined in the Laws of the Game will be applied to determine the winner if the play-off match ends in a tie.
19. Number of Substitutions
 - 19.1. The substitution arrangement for each team in each match will be applied as follows:
 - 19.1.1. Each team has a maximum of seven substitutes; and
 - 19.1.2. Each team has a maximum of three substitution opportunities (where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for both teams. Multiple substitutions by a team during the same stoppage in play count as one used substitution opportunity); and
 - 19.1.3. Team may additionally make substitutions at half-time.
20. Match Ball
 - 20.1. The home team is responsible for providing the match ball for the match.
 - 20.2. HKFA reserve right of ball deals and provide the official match balls for matches. If the official match balls to be used in the matches, HKFA will notify the team in advance.
21. Competition Equipment
 - 21.1. Participating teams shall comply strictly with the HKFA Equipment Regulations.
 - 21.2. If the participating clubs fails to comply with articles set out in the HKFA Equipment Regulations, the relevant matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for handling.

Section F: Players and Team Officials

22. Registration System
 - 22.1. All players and team officials shall process the registration through the online registration system (HK Football Connect), clubs shall log in the system to process the registration.
23. Registration of Players
 - 23.1. Participating club must complete the registration procedures for players in the registration window. There are two registration windows for the Competition, the date of each registration window is announced by HKFA, details are as follow:
 - 23.1.1. Registration Window 1: 19 July 2022 to 10 October 2022 (A professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a registration period may be registered outside this registration period and the date will be extended to 9 December 2022) ;
 - 23.1.2. Registration Window 2: 3 January 2023 to 30 January 2023 (A professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a registration period may be registered outside this registration period and the date will be extended to 30 March 2023) ;
 - 23.1.3. Please refer to FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players for the details of the “unemployed” player, HKFA will handle it in accordance with the relevant regulations.
 - 23.2. According to Art. 5(3) of the HKFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, a player may be registered with 3 clubs during one season, but the player is only eligible to play official matches for two clubs.
 - 23.3. The registration procedure shall be completed in accordance with the Rules of the Association and the HKFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. Unless otherwise stated, all rules and regulations regarding player status and transfers will be applicable in the Competition.
 - 23.4. Player can be registered as game supervisor for the same team at the same time (Art. 24.), but he can only participate by using either one of the roles in the same match.

24. Registration of Game Supervisors
- 24.1. Participating Club may register the game supervisors at any time during the season.
- 24.2. Each participating team must register at least one and no more than seven at the age of 21 or above to be the game supervisor(s), but at least one game supervisor shall be a coach with C License or above assessed by Asian Football Confederation and registered with HKFA.
- 24.3. The same team official can only be allowed to register as the game supervisor for one participating team in the Competition.
25. Age Limit for the Players
- 25.1. Apart from players who listed on the Participating Players List on their respective club in Hong Kong Premier League, **a maximum of twenty four (24) non-HKPL players who born on or after 1 January, 2001 (U22)** can be additional listed on the Participating Players List of the Competition.
26. Non-Resident (Foreign) Player
- 26.1. Non-Resident (Foreign) Players are required to register with HKFA in accordance with the Rules of HKFA and FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 26.2. **A maximum of five (5) non-resident (foreign) players** can be fielded at one time during the whole process of each match (including the non-resident (foreign) player being sent-off by referee with red card).

27. Submission of Participating Players List
 - 27.1. The participating club must submit the Participating Players List for its team to HKFA no later than 7 working days before the start of the first match of the Competition. Players and game supervisors listed in the Participating Players List must be successfully registered.
 - 27.2. At any time during the season (from the time of submission of Participating Players List in accordance with Art. 27.1.), the Participating Players List must meet the following conditions:
 - 27.2.1. There must be not less than eighteen (18) players on the Participating Players List;
 - 27.2.2. There must be at least one (1) and no more than seven (7) at the age of 21 or above as the game supervisor, but at least one game supervisor shall be a coach with C License or above assessed by Asian Football Confederation and registered with HKFA.
 - 27.3. If a participating team is required to make changes to the players on the submitted Participating Players List, participating team may make changes with any reason on or before 31 May, 2023 in accordance with relevant rules and regulations.
 - 27.4. Participating team may remove the player from the submitted Participating Players List at any time.
 - 27.5. Participating team may change or remove the game supervisors from the submitted Participating Players List at any time.
28. Start List (Form B) and the Registered List of Game Supervisors and Players issued by HKFA
 - 28.1. After the submission of the Participating Players List, the participating team will receive the Start List (Form B), together with the registered list of game supervisors and players issued by HKFA to determine the eligibility to play.
 - 28.2. Teams must bring their own Start List (Teams can make photocopies of Form B, but cannot make any amendments to the Form B) and the registered list of game supervisors and players to the match.
 - 28.3. It is the responsibility of the game supervisor to ensure all the documents required for the competition are correct, including but not limited to Start List (Form B), registered list of game supervisors and players.

Section G: Match Day Procedure

29. Submission of Start List and Checking Identity
 - 29.1. Participating teams shall submit the start list (Form B) (teams can make copy of Form B, but cannot amend any content of Form B) to referee, and the following information shall be clearly stated on the start list:
 - 29.1.1. Eleven (11) starting players and a maximum of twelve (12) substitutes; and
 - 29.1.2. Select the captain; and
 - 29.1.3. Select one (1) game supervisors (If either team does not have the game supervisor present before or during the match, the referee will not start the match or terminate the match immediately, the relevant matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for handling) ; and
 - 29.1.4. The kit color of the team; and
 - 29.1.5. The captain and the game supervisor shall sign on the start list.
 - 29.2. The referee will check the identity for the game supervisor and players according to the start list and the registration list of game supervisors and players.
 - 29.3. If the team cannot submit the start list or present the registration list of team supervisors and players, the match cannot be played and the incident will be regarded as a violation, the relevant matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for handling.
 - 29.4. If the referee or the duty officer has doubts about the identity of the game supervisor or player, the referee has the right to ask the game supervisor or player to show their identity documents and sign on the start list.
 - 29.5. If it is confirmed that the club has sent or intends to send unregistered or ineligible game supervisor or player to play, the incident will be regarded as a violation and it will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for handling.
30. Sign and Receive the Red Card and Yellow Card Record
 - 30.1. Game supervisor shall sign and receive the Red Card and Yellow Card Record after the match. If the game supervisor does not sign and receive the Red Card and Yellow Card Record, the relevant matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for handling.

Section H: Match Officials

31. Appointment of Match Officials
 - 31.1. HKFA may appoint match officials including but not limited to duty officer, refereeing officials, general coordinator, referee assessor, media officer, marketing officer, security officer, medical officer, doping control officer and anti-discrimination officer for the organization and operations of the Matches.
32. Duty Officer
 - 32.1. HKFA shall appoint one duty officer to monitor the match, and the duty officer shall submit the duty officer report to HKFA within 48 hours after the match.
 - 32.2. Duty officer shall issue the Red Card and Yellow Card Record to the game supervisors of both teams after the match, and the game supervisor shall sign and receive the Red Card and Yellow Card Record according to the Art. 30.1.
33. Referees and Assistant Referees
 - 33.1. HKFA shall appoint the referee, assistant referees and the 4th official (if any) from the list of the registered referring officials. If a referee is unable to attend to perform his duties, HKFA may appoint other persons as it thinks fit to perform the duties of the referee or assistant referee before the start of the match. If the designated suitable person is unable to perform the duties of a referee, that person can still take the position of an assistant referee.
 - 33.2. The powers and duties of the Refereeing Officials are set out respectively as according to:
 - 33.2.1. Law 5 of the Laws of the Game set out the powers and responsibilities of the referee;
 - 33.2.2. Law 6 of the Laws of the Game set out the powers and responsibilities of the assistant referee and 4th official.
 - 33.3. The referee must send the referee's report, incident or red card report and other misconduct report (the related report is including but not limited to players, team officials or supporters) to HKFA within 48 hours after the match.
 - 33.4. The refereeing officials shall be governed by the HKFA Referees Regulations drawn up and communicated by the HKFA Referees Committee and in force at the time of the Competition.

Section I: Disciplinary Matters

34. General Principles
 - 34.1. All participating clubs, its team officials, players undertake to comply with the HKFA Disciplinary Code and all relevant circulars and directives in force at the time of the Competition, and agree in particular to respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence and the authority of the match officials, and behave accordingly.
35. Disciplinary Incidents
 - 35.1. Disciplinary incidents shall be dealt with in compliance with the HKFA Disciplinary Code in force and all relevant circulars and directives.
 - 35.2. HKFA may initiate investigations should it suspect and/or is aware of any violation of current HKFA Constitution, HKFA Disciplinary Code, the relevant circulars and directives.
 - 35.3. HKFA may impose disciplinary measures for any violation of current HKFA Constitution, HKFA Disciplinary Code, the relevant circulars and directives.
36. Cautions, Expulsions, Suspensions, Suspensions/Cautions carried over a football season
 - 36.1. The red card or yellow card received by the team officials or players in the competition and the related suspensions will be executed in accordance with the HKFA Disciplinary Code.
 - 36.2. The red card or yellow card received during the competition will be calculated in this competition only.
 - 36.3. Suspension in relation to the premier league (including league and cup Matches) shall only be calculated and executed in matches held in the premier league. However, unless a player has served the suspension in the premier league, the player shall be banned from participating in any competition in the reserve division.
 - 36.4. Suspension in any reserve division shall only be calculated and executed in matches in the reserve division, and any Player in the premier league shall be entitled to participate in matches held in the premier league even if and when the player has not served the suspension in the reserve division.
 - 36.5. The Suspensions/Cautions carried over a football season of the team official or player will be executed in accordance with the HKFA Disciplinary Code.
 - 36.6. Participating teams must be responsible for monitoring warnings or suspensions issued to their team officials and players to ensure that all registered or fielded team officials and players are eligible to play.

37. Ineligible Players

37.1. The team will be deemed to send ineligible players to play according to the following situations, including but not limited to the following:

37.1.1. The player who played was not registered as a player with HKFA in accordance with the Rules of HKFA or FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players;

37.1.2. The player who played was not listed on the start list (Form B) which is issued by HKFA;

37.1.3. The player who played was not be selected as the starting player or substitute;

37.1.4. The player who played was not complete the identity check or by use other player's identity to play;

37.1.5. The player who played in that match are subject to any type of suspension.

37.2. Any club who send the ineligible players will be regarded as a violation (Art. 45), and it will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for handling.

38. Less than eleven (11) players at the start of the match

38.1. If there are less than eleven (11) players in any team at the start of the match, the match will continue according to the number of players as stipulated in the Laws of the Game. However, the above situation will directly affect the operation and image of the competition and make the match unable to be played in the spirit of fair play. The incident will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for handling, including but not limited to:

38.1.1. 1st Infringement: A fine of HK\$1,500;

38.1.2. 2nd Infringement: A fine of HK\$3,000;

38.1.3. 3rd Infringement: A fine of HK\$5,000;

38.1.4. 4th Infringement: Suspension to be considered by the HKFA Board

39. Code of Ethics

39.1. All participating clubs, its team officials, players and match officials are responsible to comply with the FIFA, AFC or HKFA Code of Ethics, the relevant circulars or directives in force at the time of the Competition, and agree in particular to respect the fighting against discrimination, racism and match-fixing activities. All participating clubs, its Officials and Players, Match Officials are responsible to ensure the fair play of all games. Any violated behavior will be examined by the Disciplinary Committee, or further examine by FIFA, AFC or other related authorities.

40. Protest

- 40.1. A protest is an objection of any related to any event and/or matter that has a direct effect on a Match.
- 40.2. No protest shall be lodged relating to the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and binding and not subject to appeal, unless otherwise stipulated in the HKFA Disciplinary Code.
- 40.3. A protest must be submitted by the team in writing to HKFA within two (2) working days after the end of the match, including:
 - 40.3.1. A full written report and the related document for the protest; and
 - 40.3.2. Protest fee of HK\$2,000
- 40.4. If any of the formal requirements set out in Article 40.3 are not met, the relevant protest shall be disregarded.
- 40.5. HKFA will deal with the protest after receiving it. If the protest fails, the Protest fee will be forfeited in full.
- 40.6. If the protest is finally substantiated, the deposit will be refunded in full.
- 40.7. If a protest is deemed unfounded or irresponsible, the protest fee will be forfeited. In addition, HKFA may impose additional fines on the relevant clubs.

Section J: Medical Matters

41. Medical Matters
 - 41.1. The participating club shall ensure that all players selected to take part in any matches are in all respects medically fit.
42. Medical Guidelines
 - 42.1. The participating club shall comply with the medical guidelines set out by HKFA for the pandemic situation.

Section K: Trophies

43. Trophies & Medals
 - 43.1. League Awards
 - 43.1.1. The champion and runner-up will be awarded a trophy and thirty-five (35) medals.

Section L: Commercial Rights

44. Commercial Rights
 - 44.1. HKFA is the original owner of all the rights emanating from the Competition. These rights including but not limited to all kinds of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights, A-Boards allocation and incorporeal rights as well as rights arising under copyright law whether currently existing or created in the future subject to any provision as set forth in specific regulations.

Section M: Closing Provisions

45. Disciplinary Measures

45.1. If any team, team official or player violates these Regulations or commits any misconduct, the relevant matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for handling. The Disciplinary Committee will impose sanctions on each incident, including but not limited to the following:

45.1.1. The match will be penalized as the opponent wins 3:0 or maintains the match result (if the result is better than 3:0) as the final score;

45.1.2. Deduction of points from the league table;

45.1.3. A fine at a maximum of HK\$20,000;

45.1.4. To impose the team to responsible for the related match expenses;

45.1.5. To suspend or prohibit the player or team official from participating in activities organized or co-organized by HKFA (Suspension can be extended to all HKFA competitions);

45.1.6. Match replay;

45.1.7. Disqualification of a team, player or team official;

45.1.8. To suspend the participation of the team, player or team official for a specified period of time

45.1.9. To suspend the Club membership.

46. Languages

46.1. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English and Chinese version of these Regulations, the Chinese version shall be authoritative.

47. Amendment and Interpretation of the Regulations

47.1. HKFA Board shall have the right to make amendments, additions, deletions and to interpret any articles in these Regulations.

--The End--