



 **BOC LIFE**  
**HONG KONG**  
**PREMIER LEAGUE**

**2020-21**

**Hong Kong Premier League**

**Competition Regulations  
& Agreement**

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

Updated on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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## Competition Regulations & Agreement

SECTION A: DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION	
Definitions	
A.1	The terms in capital letters used in these Regulations (as hereafter defined) shall have the following meaning(s):
AFC	Asian Football Confederation.
AFC Competition	AFC Champions League, AFC Cup or any other competitions organized by AFC from time to time for participation of clubs.
Auditors	Registered auditors appointed by a Participating Club to audit its accounts.
CAS	Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.
Competition	The competition called the “2020-21 HKFA Premier League”, which shall include all Matches including any opening , presentation and closing ceremonies, press conferences or other Official Functions connected therewith.
Competition Regulations and Agreement	The standard agreement between HKFA and Participating Clubs for their participation in the Competition.
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.
Premier League Club(s)	Those sports/football clubs which have applied to and been granted by HKFA to have its first team participating into the Competition in the 2020-21 Season.
Head Coach	The Head Coach duly designated and nominated by a Participating Club to its playing team.
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.

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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.
Home Venue	The stadium/sport ground allocated by HKFA to a Participating Club for staging the Matches which its playing team playing as Home Team.
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.
Officials	Any individual registered as a part of the Participating Club in a technical or administrative capacity.
Official Functions	Any official event authorized in connection with the Competition including but not limited to press conferences, official dinners or lunches and banquets, and as otherwise advised by HKFA.
Participating Club(s)	A club and clubs has/have its/their first team participating in the Competition.
Person	Any natural person, legal entity, firm or unincorporated association.
Players	Any of the registered playing members of the Participating Club
Professional Clubs	Those sports/football clubs which fulfilled the requirements of Club Licence.
These Regulations	The regulations for the time being of the Competition and a letter and a number following a reference to a regulation identifies the Section in which it is comprised and its number within that Section.
Refereeing Officials	The referee, assistant referees and 4 <sup>th</sup> 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.
Season	A period starting from <b>October</b> and finishing <b>in</b> June the ensuing year.
Team Manager	The Team Manager duly designated and nominated by a Participating Club to its playing team.
Title Sponsor	The sponsor granted the right to have its agreed brand identity associated with name of the Competition.

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Visiting Team	The playing team whose name last appears in respect of a Match of the Competition on the Competition's fixture list.
Team Supporter	Supporter from the participating club, who is included but not limited to the fans club member, worn, customized or behaved to support a specific team, located at the assigned fans area or recognized as team supporter by HKFA/participating club.

Interpretation	
A.2	Unless the text otherwise requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- words importing the singular number shall include the plural and vice versa; and</li><li>- words importing any particular gender shall include all other genders</li></ul>
A.3	References to statutory provisions shall be construed as references to those provisions as they may be amended or re-enacted.
A.4	The headings in these Regulations are for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation.
A.5	Reference to persons shall include any legal person or corporation.
A.6	Unless otherwise stated, the provision of HKFA Constitution shall prevail in the event of any conflict with these Regulations.



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SECTION B: GENERAL PROVISIONS		
Preambles		
B.1	HKFA organizes the Competition which is the top-tier football competition for participation of the first team of the Premier League Clubs.	
B.2	A Participating Club must be a football club or a sports club properly constituted/ incorporated/registered as a legal entity in Hong Kong.	
Official Name		
B.3	The Competition shall be officially called the “2020-21 HKFA Premier League”.	
B.4	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.	
Governance		
B.5	The Competition shall be wholly governed by HKFA which may delegate the administrative and judiciary powers to its bodies as appropriate and duly appointed.	
B.6	Except otherwise provided in these Regulations, the current HKFA Constitution, rules, regulations, codes, guidelines, circulars and directives in force at the time of the Competition are binding for all parties participating and involving in the Competition.	
Commercial Rights		
B.7	Any rights associated with the Competition which has not been granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreement to a Participating Club shall belong to HKFA.	
B.8	HKFA is the original owner of all the rights emanating from the Competition. These rights include, among others, 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 (such as those pertaining to emblems) 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.	
Compliance with the Laws of Hong Kong		
B.9	A Participating Club shall be responsible for ensuring the compliance of its Officials and Players with the relevant laws of Hong Kong, including but not limited to those relating to immigration and employment, in order to take part in the Competition. Failure to do so shall be regarded a breach of these Regulations (ref. Art. P.1).	

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Insurance	
B.10	A Participating Club must conclude the necessary insurance policies , including but not limited to employees’ compensation and third-party liability, and submit to HKFA a copy of proof of insurance not later than fourteen (14) days prior to its team’s first match of the Competition.
B.11	Such insurance must involve an appropriate guaranteed sum for injury and damage to employees/persons, objects and property, and correspond to the specific circumstances. Likewise, the policies must fully cover all risk connected with the employment of its Officials and Players, with the club’s participation in the Competition and staging of matches, and exempt HKFA from all claims and liabilities, and further name HKFA as a co-insured in all policies. The club must provide medical cover for all registered players in the first team through a medical insurance scheme for the time that the player is contracted to the club. The medical cover provided must meet the minimum standards laid down from time to time by the HKFA.  The Club agrees to participate in a collective Hong Kong Premier League Insurance Scheme (including employees’ compensation and medical insurance). The decision will be made by HKFA and clubs by voting, the option with the highest number of votes will be chosen.
B.12	A Participating Club shall arrange suitable insurance(s) for the Competition’s trophy won by the club (ref. Art. D.14) and under the club’s retention and custody.
Medical Issues	
B.13	The Club shall ensure that all Players selected to take part in any Match are in all respects medically fit.
B.14	The Club shall comply with all medical regulations set out in the Hong Kong Club Licence at all times including but not limited to HKFA doping control regulations, and shall be sole responsible for the arrangement and payment of medical treatment of Players and Officials and sole liable for the costs of such treatment.
B.15	A player must undergo an annual medical examination and cardiovascular screening as stated in the AFC and Hong Kong Club License regulations. If the player fails to pass the screening, the player <b>can</b> be included in the Participating Player List, <b>but</b> the player cannot <b>represent his club to play</b> in a HKPL or HKFA organized cups/competitions <b>until he pass the medical examination and cardiovascular screening</b> .
<b>B.16</b>	<b>The Club shall comply with the medical guideline set out for the COVID-19 pandemic situation by HKFA at all times.</b>
Responsibility	
B.17	The Participating Clubs shall discharge HKFA and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against HKFA and its members and staff for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organization and course of the Competition to the exclusion of damage caused by HKFA or it members and staff acting with intent or gross negligence.
B.18	The Participating Clubs shall exempt (indemnity and hold harmless) HKFA from all third party claims for damages relating to match organization, in regardless of whether individual matches in question take place or not.

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Relationship between Participating Clubs and HKFA	
B.19	<p>Participation of the Competition shall constitute an agreement between HKFA and the Participating Clubs and between each Participating Club to be bound by and comply with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the Laws of the Game;</li><li>- HKFA Constitution, rules, regulations, codes, guidelines, circulars and directives;</li><li>- these Regulations;</li><li>- the statutes and regulations of FIFA; and</li><li>- the statutes and regulations of AFC,</li></ul> <p>each as amended from time to time.</p>
B.20	<p>In all matters and transactions relating to the Competition each Participating Club shall behave towards each other club and HKFA with the utmost good faith.</p>
B.21	<p>No Participating Club either by itself, its directors, officers, employees or agents shall by any mean whatsoever unfairly criticize, disparage, belittle or discredit any other Participating Club or HKFA or in either case any of its directors, officers, employees or agents. Failure to comply will be seen as breach of HKFA Code of Ethics and the case will be referred to HKFA Disciplinary Committee for disciplinary proceedings.</p>
Player and/or Official Terms	
B.22	<p>The Club shall without cost to the HKFA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Procure that each member of its Participating Team (including, for the avoidance of doubt, Participating Team Officials) shall have signed the Player and Official Terms as per Schedule I.</li><li>B. Provide a copy of all original signed Player and Official Terms to HKFA prior to the commencement of the Competition.</li><li>C. Procure that each registered Player and Official has been provided with a copy of this Agreement and use its best endeavours to ensure that each such individual has read and fully understood the provisions of this Agreement relevant to them.</li><li>D. Use its best endeavours to procure compliance by each Player and Official with the Player Terms and take all steps necessary to enforce the Player and Officials Terms (Schedule I) as issued and/or directed by HKFA.</li><li>E. Be fully liable to HKFA for any loss or damage including economic and/or consequential loss or damage, suffered by HKFA as a result of non-compliance by the Player or Officials of the Terms, where its Participating Team has failed to procure signature by a Player and/or Official of the Player and Officials Terms.</li><li>F. The Club hereby acknowledges and agrees that the eligibility of any Player and/or Official to participate in the Competition is conditional upon compliance with the terms of this Agreement.</li></ul>

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Duties of Disclosure		
B.23	A Participating Club shall upon reasonable request of HKFA disclose details of its owners and directors, the contracts with Players and Officials and the sources of revenue. The details and information shall be in accordance with the Hong Kong Club Licence Regulations.	
B.24	A Participating Club shall prepare independently audited accounts and to publish the information. The accounts should be given to HKFA upon request. The details and information shall be in accordance with the Hong Kong Club Licence Regulations.	
Confidentiality		
B.25	A Participating Club shall not without HKFA's prior written consent either during its participation or at any time after its cessation of participation disclose or divulge either directly or indirectly to any Person whatsoever or otherwise make use of any confidential information as to the business or finances of the Competition or any other participating club or any of their dealings, transactions or affairs or as to any other matters which may come to its knowledge by reason of its participation save to statutory and regulatory authorities or as may be required by law or to such Officials and Auditors of that club to whom such disclosure is strictly necessary for the purpose of their duties and then only to the extent so necessary.	
Disputes and Arbitration		
B.26	All disputes between HKFA, Participating Clubs, Players and Officials in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation at first instance.	
B.27	In compliance with the FIFA Statutes and HKFA Constitution, Participating Clubs, Players and Officials are forbidden to take disputes to an ordinary court of law but to the exclusive jurisdiction of FIFA and/or HKFA in accordance with the applicable procedure.	
B.28	In case of disputes arising between clubs and players, HKFA Secretariat will refer the case to HKFA Dispute Resolution Chamber, as required by FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer. The DRC shall adjudicate on any of the cases described under the regulations of FIFA. If there is reason to believe that a case raises a disciplinary issue, the DRC shall submit the file to the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the HKFA Disciplinary Code.	
B.29	The Participating Clubs, Players and Officials acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at FIFA and HKFA, their sole recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, unless excluded or the decision is declared as final and binding and not subject to appeal. Any arbitration proceedings at CAS shall be governed by the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.	
Matters Not Provided For		
B.30	Matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of force majeure shall be dealt with, and decided at its absolute discretion, by HKFA as it deems fit and its decisions thereupon are final.	

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SECTION C: PARTICIPATING CLUBS	
Membership with HKFA	
C.1	A Participating Club must be either a Voting Member or a Non-Voting Member of HKFA as defined in the Rules of HKFA.
Number of Participating Teams	
C.2	The number of teams in the Competition shall be determined from time to time by HKFA and the maximum number shall not exceed twelve (12) in the 2020-21 Season. All participating clubs must follow the rules listed in the Club Licence.
C.3	<p>HKFA reserves the rights to grant the participation rights to any club if there is any vacancy available, subject to meeting the Hong Kong Club Licence Regulations. If there is any vacancy available or the qualified for promotion 1<sup>st</sup> Division's Team renounce their right to promote, the priority will be given in the following order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. The team in Premier League last season.</li><li>ii. The team in 1<sup>st</sup> Division League which Rank 2<sup>nd</sup>.</li><li>iii. The team in 1<sup>st</sup> Division League (base on the league ranking, except the team relegated)</li><li>iv. The team in Premier League which Rank last.</li><li>v. The local team invited by HKFA.</li><li>vi. The overseas team invited by HKFA.</li></ol>

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Duties and Obligations	
C.4	<p>On entering the Competition, the Participating Clubs shall automatically undertake to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. comply with the universal Statutes of the Sport as laid down by the international federation (FIFA) and the regional confederation (AFC);</li><li>ii. observe and comply with any agreements entered into with HKFA (ref. Art. C.9) as well as Hong Kong Club Licence regulations, policies, directives, circulars, guidelines and decisions issued by HKFA and the applicable Laws of Hong Kong;</li><li>iii. comply with the Laws of the Games;</li><li>iv. accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters related to the Competition shall be dealt with by HKFA with these Regulations or the decision of the relevant HKFA bodies;</li><li>v. participate with the strongest possible team in all matches of the Competition in which their team is scheduled to take part;</li><li>vi. accept all arrangements made by the third parties in agreement with HKFA in relations to the Competition;</li><li>vii. observe the principle of Fair Play;</li><li>viii. comply with any regulations or policies issued by the venue owner, i.e. Leisure &amp; Cultural Services Department (LCSD).</li><li>ix. be responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out duties on their behalf throughout the Competition;</li><li>x. accept HKFA's right to use and/or HKFA's right to sub-license the right to use on a non-exclusive basis, in perpetuity and free of any charge, any of their records, names, photographs, team logos and images (including any still and moving representation thereof), which may appear on or be generated in connection with the participation of the team members of their playing teams in the Competition; and to the extent that HKFA's right to use and/or HKFA's right to sub-license the right to use any of the records, names, photographs, team logos and images may fall in ownership and/or control of a third party, the Participating Clubs and the members of their playing teams shall ensure that such third party waives, pledges and unconditionally assigns and/or transfers to HKFA with immediate effect, with full title guarantee in perpetuity and without any restriction, any such rights to ensure HKFA's unfettered use as set out above;</li><li>xi. attend and participate in all official activities and events organized by HKFA in accordance with guidelines and/or instructions in circulars issued by HKFA.</li></ol>
Entry Form	
C.5	<p>Entry into the Competition shall be in the prescribed form issued by HKFA indicating the club's official address, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, names of officers (President, Chairman and Secretary) as well as team colours. The completed entry form shall be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> March the latest before the start of the Competition.</p>

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Club Licence	
C.6	All clubs participating in the HKFA Premier League must follow the rules listed in the Club Licence.
C.7	The obligations and responsibilities of the Participating Club/s are stipulated in the Club Licence Regulations.
C.8	Any clubs who fails to follow the rules of the Club License shall be liable to disciplinary action, including but not limited to a caution, a fine, point deduction and the obligation to submit evidence or to fulfil certain conditions by a deadline.
Hong Kong Premier League Competition Fee	
C.9	A Participating Club should submit a competition fee, with the amount in force shall be determined and published by HKFA from time from time. The competition fee in force for the 2020-21 Season is <b>HKD50,000 (HK Dollars Fifty Thousand)</b> .
Name of Playing Teams	
C.10	Except in the case as described in Art. C.11 below, the official name of a Participating Club shall be used as the name of its playing teams.
C.11	<p>A Participating Club may apply for HKFA's permission to use its main sponsor's name as the name of its playing team appeared on fixtures list and relevant publications and announcements provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the application has to be submitted to HKFA not later than fifteen (15) days before the first match of the Competition in that season;</li><li>- to pay to HKFA a non-refundable payment of HKD 5,000 (HK Dollars Five Thousand).</li></ul>
Withdrawal	
C.12	<p>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 club shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. have all its matches canceled and the record of the matches expunged;</li><li>ii. a maximum fine of<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- HKD20,000 (HK Dollars Twenty Thousand) if withdraws before the commencement of the Competition;</li><li>- HKD50,000 (HK Dollars Fifty Thousand) if withdraws after the first match of the Competition;</li><li>- HKD80,000 (HK Dollars Eighty Thousand) if withdraws after its playing team's first match in the Competition;</li></ul></li><li>iii. return to HKFA any financial stipends that have been paid to the club in relations to and throughout the Competition or forfeit the right to the same;</li><li>iv. be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by other Participating Clubs, HKFA, HKFA's commercial and TV partners. The amount of compensation will be determined by HKFA;</li><li>v. be referred to appropriate HKFA bodies for additional sanctions depending on the gravity of the situation, then to HKFA for final decision.</li></ol>

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Non-fulfillment of Fixture	
C.13	<p>If a Participating Club whose playing team absents from a match of the Competition rendering the match unplayed, except in cases of force majeure recognized by HKFA, the club shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. have the match forfeited and opposing team being awarded three (3) points and three (3) goals scored;</li><li>ii. a maximum fine of<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- HKD100,000 (HK Dollars One Hundred Thousand) if the club notifies its playing team's absence from the match not less than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled kick-off time;</li><li>- HKD150,000 (HK Dollars One Hundred and Fifty Thousand) if the club notifies its playing team's absence within twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled kick-off time of the match;</li></ul></li><li>iii. be required to reimburse HKFA and the opposing club for any expenses incurred as a result of its playing team's absence from the match;</li><li>iv. be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by the opposing club, HKFA, HKFA's commercial and TV partners. The amount of compensation will be determined by HKFA;</li><li>v. be referred to appropriate HKFA bodies for additional sanctions depending on the gravity of the situation, then to HKFA for final decision.</li></ol>
Refusal to Play	
C.14	<p>If a Participating Club whose playing team refuses to continue to play a match of the Competition or leaves the ground before the end of match, rendering the match abandoned, the club shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. depending on the scores at the time of abandonment<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- have the match forfeited and opposing team being awarded three (3) points and three (3) scored; or</li><li>- to have the scores stand at the time of abandonment if these means to be more favorable results to the opposing team.</li></ul></li><li>ii. a maximum fine of HKD200,000 (HK Dollars Two Hundred Thousand);</li><li>iii. be required to reimburse HKFA and the opposing club for any expenses incurred as a result of its playing team's refusal to continue the match;</li><li>iv. be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by the opposing club, HKFA, HKFA's commercial and TV partners. The amount of compensation will be determined by HKFA;</li><li>v. be referred to appropriate HKFA bodies for additional sanctions depending on the gravity of the situation, then to HKFA for final decision.</li></ol>



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SECTION D: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS	
Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game	
D.1	All matches of the Competition shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the Competition and as laid down by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and published by FIFA.
D.2	In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.
D.3	<p>The Competition shall allow each playing team to nominate up to <b>twelve (12)</b> substitutes in a match.</p> <p>According to the temporary amendment for the Law 3 of the Laws of the Game, the substitution arrangement will be applied as follows:</p> <p>During the match, each team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- may use a maximum of five substitutes</li> <li>- has a maximum of three substitution opportunities*</li> <li>- may additionally make substitutions at half-time</li> </ul> <p>Where extra time is played, each team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- may use an additional substitute (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitutes)</li> <li>- has one additional substitution opportunity* (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitution opportunities)</li> <li>- may additionally make substitutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ in the period before the start of extra time</li> <li>▪ at half-time in extra time</li> </ul> </li> <li>- If a team has not used its maximum number of substitutes or substitution opportunities, the unused substitutions and opportunities may be used in extra time.</li> </ul> <p>* Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team.</p>
Mode of Competition	
D.4	<p>The Competition shall be divided in two (2) stages.</p> <p>The first stage shall be played in league format - each participating team shall play two (2) matches against each other participating team, being the Home Team in respect of one such match and the Visiting Team in respect of the other. After the completion of the first stage, the top four teams in the league table will qualify and participate in the "Championship Group", while the bottom four teams in the league table will participate in the "Relegation Group". The number of points in the league table after the completion of the first stage will be carried forward to the second stage directly.</p> <p>In second stage, it will be divided in two (2) groups, "Championship Group" and "Relegation Group". Both groups shall be played in single round-robin format - each participating team shall play one (1) matches against each other participating team in the respective group. The four teams participating in the "Championship Group" will compete for the Champion to fourth place, while the four teams participating in the "Relegation Group" will compete for the fifth to eighth place in the league.</p>

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Pointing System	
D.5	The winner of a match shall be awarded three (3) points. Each team participating in a match which ends in a draw shall be awarded one (1) point.
Determination of Positions in the Competition Table	
D.6	Participating Clubs' positions in the league table shall be determined by the number of points obtained by their respective playing team in the Competition, the team having obtained the highest number of points being at the top of the table and the team having obtained the lowest number of points being at the bottom.
D.7	<p>If any two (2) or more playing teams have obtained the same number of points, the positions of the clubs concern shall be determined as follows by order of priority:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. number of points obtained <u>in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned</u>, higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest number of points;</li><li>2. goal difference, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goal scored by and against a team <u>in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned</u>, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest goal difference;</li><li>3. number of goals scored by a team <u>in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned</u>, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with more or most goals scored;</li><li>4. if, after having applied Art. D.7.1 to D.7.3, playing teams still have an equal ranking, Art. D.7.1 to D.7.3 are reapplied exclusively to the matches between the playing teams in question to determine their final rankings. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, Art. D.7.5 to D.7.8 apply;</li><li>5. goal difference, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goal scored by and against a team <u>in all its matches of the Competition</u>, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest goal difference;</li><li>6. number of goals scored by a team <u>in all its matches of the Competition</u>, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with more or most goals scored;</li><li>7. least number of yellow and red cards. Each team will receive points for receiving red and yellow cards as indicated below:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Each yellow card (1 point)</li><li>ii. Each red card as a consequence of two yellow cards (3 points)</li><li>iii. Each direct red card (3 points)</li><li>iv. Each yellow card followed by a direct red card (4 points)</li></ol>The team receiving the least number of points will be ranked the highest.</li><li>8. drawing of lots (saved the case of deciding the Championship which shall be decided by means of a play-off match).</li></ol>
D.8	If any Participating Club ceases to participate in the Competition during the course of the season, the record of the matches of the Competition in which its playing team has participated shall be expunged from the league table (ref. Art. C.12, i.).

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Unplayed Matches		
D.9	Any match of the Competition which is not played due to absence of the playing team/s shall be dealt with in accordance to Art. C.13 above.	
D.10	HKFA may order to replay a match which is unplayed due to reasons of force majeure recognized by HKFA.	
Abandoned Matches		
D.11	Any match of the Competition which is abandoned due to refusal to play by the playing team(s) shall be dealt with in accordance with clause C.14 above.	
D.12	HKFA shall decide at its sole discretion to replay in full or in part a match which is abandoned due to reasons of force majeure.	
The Premier League Winners & Trophy		
D.13	The Participating Club which is at the top of the league table at the end of the Competition shall be the Premier League Champions and the second top club shall be the Runners-up.	
D.14	The Champions shall receive a trophy which it shall return to HKFA in good order and condition not later than April the ensuing year.	
D.15	The Champions shall further receive a replica of the trophy for retention, and thirty (30) commemorative medals to be presented by the club to such of its Players and Officials as it thinks fit.	
D.16	The Runners-up shall receive a commemorative trophy for retention, and thirty (30) medals to be presented by the club to such of its Players and Officials as it thinks fit.	
D.17	The player(s) who scores the most number of goals of the Premier League will be the Premier League Top Scorer and the Premier League Top Scorer will be awarded a trophy. If any team violated the regulations and the match has adjudicated with the lost, then the goal(s) which scored by player(s) from the violation team will not be counted.	
Relegation		
D.18	The bottom club in the Hong Kong Premier League at the end of the 2020-21 season shall be relegated to the Hong Kong First Division.	
D.19	If any Participating Club ceases to participate in the Competition (ref. Art. D. 8) during the 2020-21 season, HKFA may invite the relegated club from the 2019-20 season to re-join the Competition in the 2021-22 season or the winners (or next highest place club) from the second tier division to participate in the HKFA Premier League 2021-22 season.	
Protests		
D.20	For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on HKPL matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations and footballs.	

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D.21	Except otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall firstly be submitted in writing to the Match Delegate (ref. Art. G.2) within two (2) hours after completion of the match in question by the club concerned and followed up immediately as for confirmation of the protest with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing to HKFA accompanied by a fee, with the amount in force shall be determined and published by HKFA from time from time {the protest fee in force for the 2020-21 Season is HKD2,000 (HK Dollars Two Thousand)}, reaching HKFA not later than forty-eight (48) hours after the end of the match in question.	
D.22	Protests regarding the eligibility of players nominated for matches shall firstly be submitted in writing to the Match Delegate within one (1) hours after completion of the match in question and followed up immediately as confirmation of the protest with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing to HKFA accompanied by a fee with the amount in force shall be determined and published by HKFA from time from time {the protest fee in force for the 2020-21 Season is HKD2,000 (HK Dollars Two Thousand)}, reaching HKFA not later than forty-eight (48) hours after the end of the match in question.	
D.23	Protests regarding the states of the pitch, its surroundings, markings or accessory items (e.g. goal-posts, flag-posts or footballs) shall firstly be made in writing to the referee before the start of the match by the playing team lodging the protest. If the pitch's playing surface becomes unplayable during a match, the captain of the protesting team shall immediately lodge a protest with the referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to HKFA accompanied by a fee with the amount in force shall be determined and published by HKFA from time from time {the protest fee in force for the 2020-21 Season is HKD2,000 (HK Dollars Two Thousand)}, reaching HKFA not later than forty-eight (48) hours after the end of the match in question.	
D.24	Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has resumed. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to HKFA accompanied by a fee with the amount in force shall be determined and published by HKFA from time from time {the protest fee in force for the 2020-21 Season is HKD2,000 (HK Dollars Two Thousand)}, reaching HKFA not later than forty-eight (48) hours after the end of the match in question.	
D.25	No protests may be made against the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal, unless otherwise stipulated in the HKFA Disciplinary Rule.	
D.26	If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the appeal fee will be forfeited and HKFA may impose a further fine on the club concerned.	
D.27	If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations is not met, such protest shall be disregarded.	
D.28	Once the Competition has ended in a season, any protests described in this article lodged within the season shall be disregarded.	

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## Competition Regulations & Agreement

<b>SECTION E: FIXTURES</b>		
<b>Arrangement of Fixtures</b>		
E.1	<p>HKFA shall be responsible for drawing up the fixtures of the Competition and the Participating Clubs shall play in all their matches so arranged. The fixture list containing match information including, but not limited to, the 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.</p> <p>The fixture may change from time to time at the discretion of the HKFA.</p>	
E.2	<p>Fixture list shall be disseminated to participating clubs through the contact details (address, facsimile or e-mail) provided by the clubs in their entry form (ref. Art. C.5) and it is deemed to have been served once the fixture list is sent out via post, fax or e-mail.</p>	
E.3	<p>All intellectual property, copy and other rights of the fixture list shall belong to HKFA.</p>	
<b>Home Grounds</b>		
E.4	<p>HKFA shall in each season negotiate with the relevant authorities to reserve stadiums and/or sports grounds for allocation to Participating Clubs of the Competition as their Home Venues to stage the clubs' home matches. HKFA shall in consultation with the Participating Clubs in the assignments of home grounds and HKFA has the discretion to make decision on the final allocation. Saved for special circumstances, the Participating Clubs shall stage their home matches at the home ground assigned.</p>	
E.5	<p>In case a stadium/sports ground has more than one (1) clubs, interested to use as home venue, priority shall be given as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. the bona fide District Team at which the venue is situated;</li><li>2. the club finishing in the higher or highest position in the league competition of the previous season.</li></ol>	
E.6	<p>Subject to the agreement of HKFA and relevant authorities and availability of the concerned facility, any of the venues can be shared by no more than one (1) participating clubs.</p>	
<b>Days for Matches</b>		
E.7	<p>The HKFA can schedule a Match on any day of the week.</p>	
<b>Kick-off Times</b>		
E.8	<p>For Matches held on weekdays the kick-off times should be no earlier than 1800 Hours (Hong Kong Time) and not later than 2100 Hours (Hong Kong Time). For Matches held on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) or public holidays the kick-off times should be no earlier than 1400 Hours (Hong Kong Time) and not later than 2100 Hours (Hong Kong Time).</p>	
E.9	<p>HKFA in consultation with the clubs whose team is playing shall determine the kick-off time of the Matches which are televised live.</p>	

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No Clashes with Hong Kong Representative Team Matches		
E.10	No fixtures shall be arranged within 72 hours before (scheduled kick off time) or 72 hours after (according to the final whistle) the international match of the senior representative team so arranged as accordance with FIFA's international match calendar and/or by consensus among HKFA and Participating Clubs.	
E.11	The Club agrees to respect the wishes of HKFA to increase the international standing of the representative teams and to assist, where possible, in facilitating improvements in the performance of the representative teams including the release of players for representative team training, where possible.	
E.12	The Club agrees to comply with the FIFA Regulations on the 'release of players to association teams' including releasing players 48 hours (from scheduled kick off time) for friendly matches and four days in the case of qualifying matches (five days in the case of competitive matches in a different confederation) and that no fixtures shall be arranged within 48 hours (scheduled kick off time) before and after the international match of the senior representative team so arranged as accordance with FIFA's international match calendar.	
Rearranging Fixtures		
E.13	HKFA shall have power at any time to change the date upon which a Match is to be played. By exercising such power, HKFA will consult with and take into account any representations made by the Participating Clubs concerned and any other club/s which may be affected thereby.	
E.14	<p>A Participating Club may request re-arrangement of a match to another date, due to engaged in any match played in the FIFA/AFC Competition, HKFA shall accept the application which has fulfilled all the following conditions:</p> <p>i) The kick off time of the related match which fall into either period of time of the below:</p> <p>a) For those away match which need the travelling time (starting from the flight departure to the arrival) for less than 8 hours, match being held within 72 hours before (scheduled kick off time) and 72 hours after (according to the final whistle)</p> <p>b) For those away match which need the travelling time (starting from the flight departure to the arrival) for over 8 hours, match being held within 84 hours before (scheduled kick off time) and 84 hours after (according to the final whistle)</p> <p>ii) it gives notice to that effect not later than one month prior to the Match scheduled;</p>	

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E.15	<p>Subject to Art. E.14 above, HKFA will have exceptional arrangement for special circumstances as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) If there is no flight schedule available for the Participating Club to meet the official arrival or departure date which the Participating Club has no other choice but to either arrive or depart earlier, HKFA has the right to approve the fixture re-arrangement request for the match being held within 48 hours before the departure and 48 hours after the arrival. However, the request has to be submitted to HKFA one month before the match.</li><li>ii) If there is any delay in arrival due to flight or Force Majeure, HKFA reserve the right to approve the fixture re-arrangement request. And the match will be rescheduled at least 48 hours after the actual arrival of the Participating Club. However, all the related expenses incurred by this change will need to be borne by the Participating Club which requests the reschedule.</li></ul>	
E.16	<p>Subject to Art. E.14 above, the new date for the Match shall fulfill all the conditions as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) the new date for the Match will not result in the opposing club have to play another official match within 72 hours (scheduled kick off time) before and after of this re-arranged Match;</li><li>ii) the new date for the Match will not be later than the final week of the Competition in that season;</li><li>iii) if there is no suitable date can be found or Home venue is not available, HKFA has the right to re-schedule the match from their Home venue to other venues in order to facilitate the league fixture.</li></ul>	
E.17	<p>A Participating Club may request re-arrangement of a match to another date due to any reasons, provided that the club shall fulfill all the conditions as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) it gives notice to that effect not later than one month prior to the Match scheduled; (If for the cup competition, a club being knocked out which enable to vacate a more ideal competition date for them, and at the same time can fulfill the point ii) in this article, a club can request for re-arrangement of fixture no less than 10 days before the proposed match date.)</li><li>ii) there is no objections from relevant authorities, e.g. HKFA, the teams related, venue management, police, etc.</li></ul>	
E.18	<p>Subject to Art. E.16 above, the new date for the Match shall fulfill all the conditions as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) the new date for the Match will not result in the opposing club have to play another official match within 72 hours (scheduled kick off time) before and after of this re-arranged Match;</li><li>ii) the new date for the Match will not be later than the final week of the Competition in that season;</li><li>iii) the new date for the Match shall be played at the Home venue of the club without any changes.</li></ul>	

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Postponement of Matches		
E.19	No Matches shall be postponed or abandoned except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- when on the date fixed for it to be played either the Home Team or the Visiting Team is competing in an AFC Competition (Art. E.14 above); or</li><li>- with the approval of or on the instructions of the officiating referee; or</li><li>- by order of the police; or</li><li>- by order of any other authority exercising its statutory powers to that effect; or</li><li>- on the instructions of or with the prior written consent of HKFA.</li></ul>	
E.20	Upon a match being postponed or abandoned, HKFA will thereupon exercise its power under Art. E.14 above and fix a date upon which the match in question shall be played.	
Failure to Play a Match		
E.21	Except in the case of a Match which, without either of the Participating Clubs being at fault, is postponed or abandoned under the provision of Art. E.16 above, any Participating Club which causes the postponement or abandonment of a Match on the date fixed under Art. E.1 above, or to which it is re-arranged in accordance with Art. E.14 or E.15 above shall be in breach of these Regulations and may be dealt with under the provisions of Section I of these Regulations (Disciplinary Matters).	
Replaying a Match		
E.22	HKFA shall have to the power to order that a postponed or abandoned match be replayed upon recommendation to that effect made by an appropriate body or authority.	



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<b>SECTION F: MATCHES ORGANISATION AND OPERATIONS</b>		
<b>Match Rundown</b>		
F.1	All Matches will be staged as according to the Match Rundown (Appendix I, Art.F.1) adopted by HKFA. Failure to comply with the provisions may deem as misconduct and rendering the defaulting club/s being sanctioned as according to the provisions of Section I of these Regulations (Disciplinary Matters).	
<b>Equipment Regulations</b>		
F.2	All Participating Clubs in the Competition shall comply strictly with the HKFA Equipment Regulations in force at the time of the Competition.	
F.3	HKFA takes final decisions regarding the approval of kits and other items mentioned in the HKFA Equipment Regulations. HKFA 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 HKFA Equipment Regulations. The Participating Clubs agree to hold HKFA harmless from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding kits.	
<b>Home and Alternative Strips</b>		
F.4	The Club shall, at its cost, provide all the Official Apparel to be used for the duration of the competition by its Players and Officials, which shall at all times comply with the Competition Regulations and any Equipment Regulations or directives issued by HKFA.	
F.5	<p>The Club shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Where requested, submit original items of the Official Apparel for HKFA's approval within the guidelines specified in the Competition Regulations and/or Equipment Regulations;</li> <li>B. Ensure that each Player and Official shall wear only the Official Apparel approved by HKFA at all times during the Competition and at Official Functions;</li> <li>C. Ensure that, other than the Permitted Logos, Competition Logo, Participating Team's Club name, Player name and Player number and save as otherwise agreed in writing in advance by HKFA (at its absolute discretion), no Player and Official shall display any trade mark, logo, name or other designation or identification of any nature upon his/her Official Apparel, or otherwise on his person or on any clothing, accessories, items or other equipment worn, handled, carried or otherwise used during his/her participation in or attendance at the Competition or during any training, pre or post Match media conference or Official Functions.</li> </ul>	
F.6	Each Participating Club shall have both sets of home strip and alternative strips for its playing team which shall be worn by its players in the Matches in accordance with the provision of these Regulations.	
F.7	HKFA reserves the right to have the logo of the Competition and/or Title Sponsor appeared on each sleeve of both home strip and alternative strips of the Participating Clubs.	
F.8	Neither the home strip shirt nor the away strip shirt shall be of a colour or design alike or similar to the outfits of the Refereeing Officials.	

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F.9	All participating clubs must complete the registration and approval procedures of their kits 7 working days before their match (registration and approval are required regardless of whether or not advertisements are printed on the kits) in accordance to <b>2020-21</b> Equipment Regulations. Participating Club shall register its strips by submitting to HKFA the prescribed form together with samples of its home strip, alternative strip(s) and goalkeeper's strip complying with these Regulations. Kits of the teams in the Premier League shall be kept by HKFA for retention.	
F.10	Each strip submitted for registration in accordance with Art. F.9 shall have on it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the shirt number of any player in the club's first team squad, displayed as required by Art. H.19, ;</li> <li>- any advertising for which the approval of HKFA is either sought or has already been given under the provision of Art. F.19.</li> </ul>	
F.11	If pursuant to Art. F.8 a Participating Club seeks to register a strip which does not comply with these Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HKFA shall give to that club notice in writing to that effect giving full details of the changes required to achieve compliance; and</li> <li>- the strip in question shall not be worn by that club's players until a further sample has been submitted to and approved in writing by HKFA</li> </ul>	
F.12	Strips of the description thus registered shall be worn throughout the season immediately following and no changes to it shall be made except with the prior written consent of HKFA.	
F.13	When playing in the Matches, the players of the playing teams shall wear strip which in the opinion of the referee is of a sufficient contrast that the Refereeing Officials, spectators and television viewers shall be able to distinguish clearly between the two playing teams. In selecting the choice of strip the following order of precedence shall apply unless authorized by HKFA: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) 1<sup>st</sup> priority: the outfield players of the Home Team who shall wear their home strip;</li> <li>ii) 2<sup>nd</sup> priority: the outfield players of the Visiting Team;</li> <li>iii) 3<sup>rd</sup> priority: the Home Team goalkeeper;</li> <li>iv) 4<sup>th</sup> priority: the Visiting Team goalkeeper.</li> </ol>	
F.14	The Refereeing Officials shall wear colours that distinguish them from the strip worn by the two playing teams. In the event of the referees, assistant referees and fourth official not having distinguishing colours then the Visiting Team goalkeeper must change and if this is not possible the Home Team goalkeeper must do so.	
F.15	The Home Team will wear the designated home strip. Should there be any disputes, HKFA shall determine.	
F.16	Each Participating Club shall bring both sets of jerseys (home strip and alternative strips) to the stadium on match day. In the event of a dispute arising on the day of a match in relation to the strip to be worn then the referee's decision shall be final.	

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F.17	No club shall participate in a Match wearing strip other than its registered home strip or alternative strip or a combination of the same except with the prior written consent of HKFA.	
<b>Use of Competition Logo</b>		
F.18	The Club acknowledges and agrees that it shall comply fully with the guidelines published by HKFA in regard to usage of the Competition Logo, and it shall ensure that the Competition Logo is not used by any party in any commercial activity and/or in association with any promotional and/or marketing activity of any kind.	
<b>Strip Advertising</b>		
F.19	Advertising on strip shall be permitted provided that: i) the content, design and area of the advertisement is approved by HKFA; and ii) it complies with the HKFA Equipment Regulations (ref. Art. F.2) in force at the time of the Competition.	
<b>Official Match Balls</b>		
F.20	HKFA reserve right of ball deals and provide the official balls for matches.	
F.21	The footballs used in the Competition shall conform with the provisions of the Laws of the Game and bear one of the following three (3) designations:- i) the official "FIFA Quality PRO" logo; or ii) the official "FIFA Quality" logo; or iii) the reference "INTERNATIONAL MATCHBALL STANDARD"	
<b>Multi-balls System and Ball kids</b>		
F.22	Multi-balls system shall be adopted in all Matches and ball kids shall be appointed for implementation of the system.	
<b>Changing Rooms</b>		
F.23	Each playing team shall be allocated a changing room at the match venue at a Match. The allocation shall be decided by the HKFA and the decision is final.	
<b>Submission of Team Sheet</b>		
F.24	Each playing team shall submit the team sheet containing the following particulars to the Match Delegate or the HKFA designated official not later than one (1) hour thirty (30) minutes before the time fixed for the kick-off of a match:-  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the shirt numbers and names of its players (including substitute players) who are to take part in that match;</li> <li>- the colour of strip to be worn by its players, including goalkeeper;</li> <li>- the names and job titles of the team officials who will occupy the team bench (ref. Art. F.45 during that match.</li> </ul> <p>When the team submits the team sheet to the Match Delegate or the HKFA designated official, the team sheet shall be confirmed as the final list for the match. If any team would like to make any changes of the team sheet, the procedures shall be based on the provisions of Art. F.33 to F.37.</p>	

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Checking of Players' Identity and Equipment		
F.25	After submission of team sheet and before warming up, the players of the playing teams shall remain inside the changing room for identity and equipment check conducted by the Refereeing Officials. Any player who does not show up for identity and equipment shall not be permitted to take part in the match.	
Use of Electronic Performance and Tracking System (EPTS) devices		
F.26	<p>If any team would like to apply for the use of the EPTS devices, the application should be sent to the HKFA for approval. The approval is subject to the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- All devices will be inspected by the HKFA.</li><li>- The data to be collected by an approved EPTS devices, or any interpretation of it, may only be used by the respective team and/or the individual player for performance monitoring purposes (including physical, technical and tactical data) and by no means for any commercial purpose and/or in association with any third party.</li><li>- In order to protect the integrity of, and HKFA's rights in, the competition, HKFA may impose further restrictions on the use of the data collected by an approved EPTS device.</li><li>- Players (including substitutes/substituted and sent off players) are not permitted to wear or use any form of electronic or communication equipment (except where EPTS is allowed).</li></ul>	
Warming Up		
F.27	The HKFA will decide if the playing teams shall be entitled to warm up on the field of player before the match if the weather permits. Only the named starting and substitute players shall be allowed to use the pitch area for warming up.	
F.28	Pre-match warming up by either playing team shall not commence until fifty (50) minutes before the kick-off time at the earliest, shall not last for more than thirty (30) minutes and shall end no later than twenty (20) minutes before the kick-off time.	
F.29	The goalmouth area shall be used by goalkeepers only.	
F.30	All speed and stamina work shall be undertaken off the pitch parallel to the touchline opposite the side to be patrolled by the assistant referee. Only in the absence of sufficient space that only part of the pitch between the edge of penalty area and the half way line, or as otherwise directed by the HKFA and its designated match official, can be used.	
F.31	Players using the pitch at half time shall give due consideration to any other activity or entertainment taking place on the pitch at the same time.	
F.32	During actual play, a maximum six (6) named substitutes from each team may warm up at the same time but without ball (except for the goalkeeper), behind the goal closest to their team bench or in a space determined by the HKFA or its designated match official. The players may be accompanied by a maximum of two (2) officials from the bench.	

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## Competition Regulations & Agreement

Change of Match Starting List		
F.33	If any of the eleven (11) Participating Players selected to start the Match are unable to start for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Match Starting List.	
F.34	The Team Manager for the Participating Club shall immediately notify the Referees and the Duty Officer of the change to the Match Starting List.	
F.35	There is no limit to the number of Participating Players that may be replaced pursuant to Art. F.33.	
F.36	The replaced Participating Player(s) shall no longer be eligible to participate in the Match. The Participating Club may still undertake <b>five (5)</b> substitutions during the Match in accordance with Article D.3.	
F.37	No Participating Players listed as substitutes on the Match Starting List may be replaced. Should such a Participating Player be unable to be fielded for any reason, the number of listed substitutes shall be reduced accordingly.	
Processional Entry		
F.38	Playing teams in a Match will process together onto the field of play as according to the Match Rundown (Art. F.1 above), led by the Refereeing Officials.	
F.39	Subject to the prior written consent of HKFA, the Participating Club whose team playing as Home Team may arrange escort kids to join the processional entry together with the players of the playing teams.	
Pre-match Ceremony and VIP Handshake		
F.40	Playing teams in a Match shall take part in the pre-match protocol (Fairplay handshake, group photo taking, etc.) as adopted and promulgated by HKFA.	
F.41	Subject to the prior written consent of HKFA, the club whose team playing as Home Team may arrange pre-match VIP Handshake with the Refereeing Officials and players of the playing teams.	
Other Activities		
F.42	No Participating Club is allowed to arrange any other activity before, at the half-time interval and after a Match without the prior written consent of HKFA.	
F.43	Any other activity to be arranged must give due consideration to the protection of pitch condition and crowd control issues. HKFA reserves the powers to stop the activity even though prior consent has been granted and the club shall hold HKFA harmless to any damage or liability for such forfeiture of consent.	

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## Competition Regulations & Agreement

Occupation of Team Bench	
F.44	Each match venue shall provide separate team benches adjacent to the pitch for the sole use and occupation of officials, medical staff and substitute players of the playing teams during the match. The Home Team shall occupy the left hand side as view from the fourth official's bench.
F.45	Up to a maximum of eight (8) registered team officials and <b>twelve (12)</b> players named substitutes are allowed to sit on the team bench during a Match, provided they are in possession of and wearing at all time the appropriate eligibility and access card.
F.46	All persons on the bench must wear kits that are contrasting with the kits of the players and referees on the pitch.
F.47	The coaches, officials, medical staff, substitute players and other occupants of the team bench must behave in a responsible manner and must remain within the confines of the team bench and the technical area as described in Art. F.48 below except in special circumstances, for examples, where the substitute players need to warm-up and medical staff have to leave with the Referee's permission to provide medical attention to an injured player.
Use of Technical Area	
F.48	The technical areas, with boundaries clearly marked, shall include the team benches as described in Art. F.44 above and shall extend one (1) metre on either side of each the team bench and shall extend forward up to a distance of one (1) metre from the touchline.
F.49	Only one (1) person, usually the named Team Manager or the Head Coach, from a playing team is authorized to convey tactical instructions in the technical area at a time.
F.50	The use of any form of electronic communication by team officials is permitted where it directly relates to player welfare or safety or for tactical/coaching reasons but only small, mobile, hand-held equipment (e.g. microphone, headphone, ear-piece, mobilephone/smartphone, smartwatch, tablet, laptop) may be used. A team official who uses unauthorized equipment or who behaves in an inappropriate manner as a result of the use of electronic or communication equipment will be dismissed from the technical area.  Video shooting and photo taking is not permitted within the technical area during the match.
Post-Match Handshake	
F.51	Players of the both playing teams shall assemble with the Referee Officials at the centre circle after the completion of the match for post-match handshake. Any player who fails to do so shall be issued a mandatory fine of HKD2,000 (HK Dollars Two Thousand).
Post-Match Media Conference	
F.52	As and when required, the Head Coach and/or Team Manager and/or any selected player of the playing teams are required to attend the Post-Match Media Interviews. In case of default, the infringing club shall pay a mandatory fine of HK\$2,000 (HK Dollars Two Thousand).

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## Competition Regulations & Agreement

Cancellation of Matches Due to Force Majeure		
F.53	<p>If a Match cannot commence on time due to force majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:-</p> <p>i) The match must first be delayed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes, unless the Referee decides that the match can commence earlier, before a decision to cancel the match is taken;</p> <p>ii) At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of delay will allow the match to commence. However, if the match cannot be commenced at the end of this second thirty (30) minutes period or earlier, the Referee must declare the match to have been cancelled.</p>	
F.54	<p>In the case of a cancelled match as described in Art. F.53, HKFA shall decide whether the match can be rescheduled in accordance with Art. D.10, taking sporting and organizational considerations into account. The decision of HKFA shall be final and not subject to appeals.</p>	
Abandonment of Matches Due to Force Majeure		
F.55	<p>If a Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time because of force majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:-</p> <p>i) The match is automatically suspended for the duration of thirty (30) minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the match, unless the Referee decides that the match can be resumed earlier.</p> <p>ii) At the discretion of the Referee, another suspension of a maximum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the match to be resumed. However, if the match cannot be resumed at the end of this second thirty (30) minutes period or earlier, the Referee must declare the match to have been abandoned.</p>	
F.56	<p>In the case of an abandoned match as described in Art. F.55, HKFA shall decide whether the match result at the time of abandonment is valid or whether a replay shall be organized in accordance with Art. D.12, taking sporting and organizational considerations into account. The decision of HKFA shall be final and not subject to appeals.</p>	

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<b>SECTION G: MATCH OFFICIALS</b>		
<b>Appointment of Match Officials</b>		
G.1	HKFA may appoint match officials including but not limited to Match Delegate, 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.	
<b>Match Delegate</b>		
G.2	HKFA shall appoint to each HKPL match a Match Delegate who acts as the official representative of HKFA at the match to which he is appointed and reports thereon to HKFA.	
G.3	The powers and duties of Match Delegate are set out as Appendix II of these Regulations.	
<b>Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials</b>		
G.4	HKFA shall, through its Referees Committee, appoint to each HKPL match one (1) referee, two (2) assistant referees and a fourth official (collectively as Refereeing Officials). They shall be selected from the respective lists of Referees and Assistant Referees eligible to appointment to officiate at HKPL matches compiled and published before the commencement of each Season.	
G.5	The powers and duties of the Refereeing Officials are set out respectively as according to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- referee: Law 5 of the Laws of the Game</li><li>- assistant referee: Law 6 of the Laws of the Game</li><li>- fourth official: Law 6 of the Laws of the Game</li></ul>	
G.6	The management of the Refereeing Officials shall be governed separately by the HKFA Referees Regulations drawn up and communicated by the HKFA Referees Committee and in force at the time of the Competition.	



# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

<b>SECTION H: PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS</b>	
<b>Regulations regarding Players</b>	
H.1	Except otherwise provided, all the relevant HKFA rules and regulations regarding the status and transfer of players in force shall be applicable to the Competition.
<b>Eligibility to Play</b>	
H.2	<p>A player is eligible to play in the Competition provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. he is duly registered by his club with HKFA as accordance to the Rules of HKFA and those of FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players where relevant;</li> <li>ii. he enters into a valid professional player contract with his club with a copy duly filed to HKFA;</li> <li>iii. he provides documentary proof for being permitted to take up employment as football player in Hong Kong with the club he registers to play for.</li> </ul>
H.3	<p>A player is deemed ineligible if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. there is a violation of Art. H.1 and Art H.2;</li> <li>ii. he is fielded despite being served a disciplinary suspension;</li> <li>iii. he fails a doping test;</li> <li>iv. he fails in medical examination and cardiovascular screening;</li> <li>v. HKFA finds that document/s submitted during registration is/are false.</li> </ul>
H.4	<p>Any club found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall be dealt with by the HKFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the HKFA Disciplinary Rules. Sanctions may include but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. a fine;</li> <li>ii. deduction of points;</li> <li>iii. the award of the match to the opposing club; and/or</li> <li>iv. an order to have the match replayed.</li> </ul>
<b>Registration Windows</b>	
H.5	<p>There are two registration windows for the Competition. Each registration window shall open on a date as communicated by the HKFA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Registration Window 1: <b>22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b> (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 <b>extended to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b>);</li> <li>ii. Registration Window 2: <b>2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b> (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 <b>extended to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021</b>)</li> </ul> <p>* This will be processed in accordance with to the “FIFA Player Status”, please refer to the relevant regulations for details</p>

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

H.6	Each participating club shall submit player registrations to the HKFA via the “HK Football Connect” online system, the registration of players and the supporting documents in accordance with HKFA Rules of Association and HKFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. Unless separately provided, all rules and regulations regarding player status and transfers will be applicable in the Competition. Please refer to HKFA Rules of Association for information regarding team official and player registrations.	
H.7	According to HKFA Rules of the Association Art.17(8), a player can register with three clubs during each season, but the player can only be eligible to play in official matches for two clubs during the season.	
<b>Participating Players List</b>		
H.8	Each participating club can submit a Participating Players List up to a maximum of thirty (30) players for its first team playing in the Competition at designated time in a Season. Adding players into the list will only be accepted in accordance with the FIFA stipulations relating to Registration Windows whereas removing a player from the list can be done anytime. Furthermore, an additional pool of a maximum of ten (10) players who were born in <b>1999 or after</b> can be registered to the team.	
H.9	Each participating club must submit a Participating Players List with minimum eighteen (18) participating players and maximum thirty (30) participating players, by filling in and returning the Participating Players List, each allocated a playing number between 1 and 99.	
H.10	<p>Each participating club must submit a Participating Players List with no less than 18 players to the Players Registration Department 7 working days before (<b>i.e. on or before 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b>) the start of the Hong Kong Premier League Competitions (included but not limited to Hong Kong Premier League matches and related cup matches). The participating players should be selected from the players registered at the participating club.</p> <p>Each participating club can replace or add participating players for any reason, provided that the maximum number of registered players is not exceeded, until 14 working days (<b>i.e. on or before 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>) after the end of Registration Window 1 (<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b>), 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 <b>extended to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b>. The Participating Players List shall not be change after the above date until mentioned date in Art. H.11</p>	
H.11	During Registration Window 2, i.e. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b> , each participating club can replace or add participating players for any reason, provided that the maximum number of registered players is not exceeded, , until 14 working days ( <b>i.e. on or before 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021</b> ) after the end of Registration Window 2. 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 <b>extended to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021</b> .	
H.12	If a club fails to submit a Participating Players List with the minimum requirement of eighteen (18) players for its first team participating in the Competition by the start and anytime during the Season, the club will be receive a sanction from the HKFA.	

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

Non-Resident (Foreign) Players	
H.13	<p>Subject to Art. H.8 above, a participating club can submit up to a maximum of six (6) non-resident (foreign) players at the Participating Players List for its first team playing in the Competition at any one time in a Season.</p> <p>Among those non-resident (foreign) players, a maximum of four (4) can be fielded at one time of a HKPL match. In addition, one (1) extra designated non-resident (foreign) player can be fielded. A player being sent-off by referee (red card or two yellow cards) shall be deemed to be a player on the field.</p> <p>The designated non-resident (foreign) player shall fulfill one of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A player who has been played for a club which is in a world's top professional league of one of the top 50 associations in the FIFA ranking published by FIFA on 11th June 2020 for at least 1 season, or</li> <li>2) A player who has been fielded by his association in an international match, which his association is one of the top 50 associations in the FIFA ranking published by FIFA on 11th June 2020.</li> </ol>
Players' Identification	
H.14	At the start of each Season each participating club shall allocate a different shirt number to each player of its first team participating in the Competition. Each club shall forthwith provide to HKFA full details in writing of shirt numbers allocated by the time of registering the players.
H.15	A club shall likewise allocate a shirt number to any player joining and registering for its first team participating in the Competition during the Season.
H.16	Save with the prior written consent of HKFA shirt numbers shall be ranged from one (1) to ninety nine (99). Number one (1) must be allocated to one of the goalkeepers.
H.17	While he remains with the club a player will retain his shirt number throughout the Season for which it was allocated. Only upon the player leaving the club the shirt number allocated to him may be re-allocated.
H.18	When playing in a match of the Competition each player must wear a shirt on the back of which shall be prominently displayed his shirt number. The name of a player may be displayed on the shirt, provided that such name must be positioned above the number on the back of the shirt and must be identified by their surname or popular name. The format of the name, or such other name to be used, shall be approved in writing by HKFA. The player's shirt number shall also appear on the front of the shorts positioned on either leg.
H.19	The size, style, colour and design of shirt numbers, lettering and the logo of the Competition, if any, appearing on a player's shirt or shorts and the material from which such numbers, lettering and logo are made shall be determined or subject to the approval of HKFA from time to time.
H.20	The captain of each playing team appearing in a match of the Competition shall wear an armband. HKFA reserves the rights to provide the armband.

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

H.21	Any club acting in breach of Articles H.15 to H.21 inclusive will be liable to receive a written warning from HKFA for a first breach, to pay to HKFA a fixed penalty of HKD5,000 (HK Dollars Five Thousand) for a second breach and HKD10,000 (HK Dollars Ten Thousand) for a third breach. Any subsequent breach may be dealt under the provisions of the HKFA Disciplinary Rules.	
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Team Officials		
H.22	During anytime in the season, each participating club can submit up to a maximum of <b>fifteen (15)</b> team officials at the Participating List. Each team must enroll at least one up to 7 game supervisor(s) from the registered team officials at the age of 21 or above to be the team game supervisor(s). A supervisor has to be present during the entire match. If before or during the match, either team has no supervisor presence, the referee will not start the match or they will terminate the match immediately. The team that has no supervisor appearance shall bear the consequence and responsibility.	
H.23	Each participating club must submit one registered head coach at the participating list; the head coach must be a coach with class A or above assessed by Asian Football Confederation and registered with Hong Kong Football Association and must meet the requirement of HKFA club license. Head coach has to be listed present on the team officials on substitution bench every match and present during the entire match. A written request must be submitted to HKFA in advance if the registered head coach needs to be absent for the match due to specific reasons.	
H.24	Each participating club must submit at least one registered medical personnel at the participating list, and this medical personnel must select from the accredited list of HKFA with the position of team doctor or physiotherapist. This accredited medical personnel has to be listed present on the team officials on substitution bench every match and present during the entire match. The club shall be liable to disciplinary action if the club did not fulfill this requirement.	

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

<b>SECTION I: DISCIPLINARY MATTERS</b>		
<b>General Principles</b>		
I.1	All participating clubs, its Officials and Players undertake to comply with the HKFA Disciplinary Rules 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.	
<b>Disciplinary Incidents</b>		
I.2	Disciplinary incidents shall be dealt with in compliance with the HKFA Disciplinary Rules in force and all relevant circulars and directives.	
I.3	HKFA may initiate investigations should it suspect and/or is aware of any violation of current HKFA Constitution, HKFA Disciplinary Rules, the relevant circulars and directives.	
I.4	HKFA may impose disciplinary measures for any violation of current HKFA Constitution, HKFA Disciplinary Rules, the relevant circulars and directives.	
<b>Players and Officials Cautioned or Dismissed from the Field of Play</b>		
I.5	All players and officials being cautioned or dismissed from the Field of Play shall be dealt with by the HKFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the HKFA Disciplinary Rules in force. Each club shall bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its players and officials and to ensure that all players and officials registered and/or fielded during the competition are eligible to play.	
<b>Conduct of Club Officials and Players</b>		
1.6	Any official or player who fails to conduct oneself in a proper and responsible manner before, during or after the game, including but not limited to misconduct on the field of play, in the technical area, changing rooms and match venue premises, shall be liable to disciplinary action.	
1.7	Any official or player reported for indiscipline or violent conduct anywhere in the match venue, including but not limited to the field of play and the changing rooms, by the match officials shall be dealt with by the HKFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with HKFA Disciplinary Rules in force.	
<b>Making Disparaging Remarks on and Charging at Match Officials</b>		
1.8	No official, player or a member of the playing teams shall make any disparaging remarks on the match officials of a match; any such remark made by an official, player or a member of the team may render such person liable to disciplinary actions.	
1.9	Officials, players and members of the playing teams are prohibited from charging at match officials before, during or after the game, for whatever reasons. Any such action shall render the official. Player or member concerned liable to disciplinary actions.	

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

Team Supporters' Conduct	
I.10	<p>Subject to Art. C.4 item viii, all participating clubs shall be responsible for the behaviour of their own supporters throughout the Competition.</p> <p>Improper conduct includes without limitation violence towards persons or objects, letting off incendiary devices, throwing missiles, displaying insulting, religious, or political slogans in any form, uttering insulting words or sounds, or invading the pitch.</p> <p>The Home club is liable for improper conduct among their supporters and the visiting club is liable for improper conduct among its own group of supporters, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight.</p>

SECTION J: CODE OF ETHICS	
FIFA Code of Ethics	
J.1	All participating clubs, its Officials and Players, Match Officials undertake to comply with the FIFA Code of Ethics and all relevant circulars and directives in force at the time of the Competition, and agree in particular to respect the fighting against discrimination, racism and match-fixing activities.
J.2	All participating clubs must ensure that club governance arrangements are transparent and open to scrutiny. The details and information shall be in accordance with the Hong Kong Club Licence Regulations.
HKFA's Rules of Conduct for Players and Team/Match Officials	
J.3	All Officials, Players and Match Officials participating in the Competition shall be required to sign an undertaking ("Rules of Conduct for Players and Team/Match Officials") issued by HKFA in force during the Competition, without which their registration shall be void.

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

<b>SECTION K: DOPING CONTROL</b>		
<b>Anti-Doping Regulations</b>		
K.1	Doping is strictly prohibited and all participating clubs, its officials and players undertake to refrain from doping as defined by the relevant regulations, circulars and directives of FIFA / AFC / WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) / HKADC (Hong Kong Anti-Doping Committee) / HKFA as well as to accept the same.	
K.2	Any club, official or player found guilty of breaching the relevant regulations, circulars and directives shall be deemed to have committed gross misconduct and shall be referred to the HKFA Disciplinary and/or appropriate body for such action as deem fit.	
<b>Dope Testing and Drug Testing</b>		
K.3	HKFA may conduct dope testing and drug testing as according to the in force requirements and procedures as adopted and promulgated by the relevant bodies	
K.4	Dope testing may be conducted on any player at any match of the Competition and no prior notice shall be given either to the club or to the players concerned.	
K.5	HKFA shall at its absolute discretion decide on the matches whereby Dope Testing shall be carried out.	
K.6	Selection of players for Dope Testing shall be made at random, if necessary, HKFA will follow the articles from AFC Anti-Doping Regulations for selecting the players or teams for anti-doping test.	

<b>SECTION L: MATCH MANIPULATION</b>		
<b>Match Fixing</b>		
L.1	The Club agrees that all club owners, directors, administrators, coaches and players to sign a Code of Conduct. (See Annex I)	
L.2	The Club agrees to confirm all players and personnel to attend the events about Integrity in Sport arranged by HKFA. A declaration should be signed by the Club and return to HKFA before the commencement of the Competition, in confirming such information has been given to all players and personnel.	
L.3	If HKFA receives a report or any evidence from the FIFA, AFC or any organization authorized by AFC regarding the match fixing, HKFA has the right to refer the case to the HKFA Disciplinary and/or appropriate body for such action as deem fit.	

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

<b>SECTION M: FINANCE</b>		
<b>Gate Receipts</b>		
M.1	At all Matches, including replayed matches, the Clubs will be responsible for all the incidental costs relating to the staging of the Match at which its Participating Team playing as the “Home” Team. Such incidental costs will include but not limited to the costs of the fees for Match Officials, police, ticket-sellers, checkers, supervisors, ushers, ball boys and other personnel assigned for event operations, as well as the costs of ticketing printing and advertising, ground hiring, scoreboard and floodlighting charges, refreshment charges and such other expenses as the HKFA Board may from time to time deem fit.	
M.2	The Clubs may charge for admission to any match as which its Participating Team is playing as the “Home Team” and collect the gate receipts, subject to a payment of 5% of the gate receipts collected to the HKFA as levy.	
M.3	The HKFA shall collect the gate money on behalf of the Clubs and settle with the Clubs the net proceeds of the Match concerned within twenty-one (21) days after the match. As other match income (e.g. title sponsorship, ground advertising, broadcasting right income and merchandising income etc) is subject to venue levy charge, 20% of net proceeds will be withheld until the match income reports are provided by the Clubs. The net proceeds means the gate receipts collected minus those costs in Art. M.1 above and the levy payable to the HKFA (ref. Art. M.2).	
<b>Guarantee</b>		
M.4	A club participating in the Competition shall deposit HKD100,000 (HK Dollars One Hundred Thousand) into its account with HKFA not later than twenty (20) days before the first match of the Competition in a Season as guarantee. The account should be maintained monthly at the level of not less than HKD100,000 (HK Dollars One Hundred Thousand) within fourteen (14) days upon HKFA’s request and not later than the 19th day of the month whatsoever. Monthly statement of the account will be issued not later than the 5th day of the following month and will be deemed to be correct if no comment received from the club within two (2) weeks. The residence of the account shall be returned to the club after the end of the Competition in that Season.	
M.5	If a Club fails to maintain a positive balance throughout the Competition, HKFA reserves the right to impose a number of sanctions. These are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Warning for first offense</li> <li>b) Final warning for second offense</li> <li>c) Fine HK\$10,000 for third offense</li> <li>d) Point deduction (10 points) for fourth offense</li> <li>e) Suspension of fixtures for fifth offense</li> <li>f) Expulsion from the League for sixth offense</li> </ul>	
<b>Cheque Settlement</b>		
M.6	HKFA will arrange the cheque settlement for situation mentioned in Art. M.3 and M.4 when HKFA receives written request from the clubs stating clearly with the cheque payee name.	



# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

SECTION N: MARKETING, BROADCASTING AND SPONSORSHIP	
Broadcasting Arrangements	
N.1	The Club agrees to participate in a collaborative Hong Kong Premier League Broadcasting Deal. The decision will be made by HKFA and clubs by voting, the option with the highest number of votes will be chosen.
N.2	<p>The Club acknowledges and shall ensure that</p> <p>A. The Official Licensees enjoy exclusive rights of association with the Competition within their own product categories, and these rights of association will cover all elements of the Competition, and will not undertake any activities that will compete either directly or indirectly with the lawful rights of such Official Licensees.</p> <p>B. The Club and/or any The Club's Sponsor(s) shall NOT:</p> <p>i. Use the Competition Logo or otherwise to associate itself with HKFA, and/or the Competition (save as set out above); and</p> <p>ii. Engage in any promotional activities during the Competition, where such promotional activities may amount to ambush marketing in relation to HKFA, the Competition or the Commercial Rights.</p>
N.3	<p>The Club shall without cost to HKFA:</p> <p>A. Procure that each member of its Participating Team (including, for the avoidance of doubt, Participating Team Officials) shall have signed the Player and Official Terms as per Schedule I.</p> <p>B. Provide a copy of all original signed Player and Official Terms to HKFA prior to the commencement of the Competition.</p> <p>C. Procure that each registered Player and Official has been provided with a copy of this Agreement and use its best endeavours to ensure that each such individual has read and fully understood the provisions of this Agreement relevant to them.</p> <p>D. Use its best endeavours to procure compliance by each Player and Official with the Player Terms and take all steps necessary to enforce the Player and Officials Terms (Schedule I) as issued and/or directed by HKFA.</p> <p>E. Be fully liable to HKFA for any loss or damage including economic and/or consequential loss or damage, suffered by HKFA as a result of non-compliance by the Player or Officials of the Terms, where its Participating Team has failed to procure signature by a Player and/or Official of the Player and Officials Terms.</p> <p>F. The Club hereby acknowledges and agrees that the eligibility of any Player and/or Official to participate in the Competition is conditional upon compliance with the terms of this Agreement.</p>

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N.4	<p>The Club acknowledges and agrees that neither it nor its Participating Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Shall have nor acquire any right, title or interest (including any intellectual property rights or goodwill) in and to the competition Logo and/or Commercial Rights to the Competition.</li><li>B. Will adopt or use any other marks, logos, emblems, designations or titles confusingly similar to the Competition Logo.</li><li>C. The Club hereby grants to HKFA a royalty-free, non-exclusive licence throughout the world to use and sub-license the use of its Club Logo, in conjunction with the Competition Logo and the relevant logos of any other clubs in the Competition for any and all purpose in connection with the Competition and in all media in connection with the full exploitation of the Commercial Rights. HKFA also undertakes that it will not adopt or use any other marks, logos, emblems, designations or titles confusingly similar to the club's Logo.</li></ul>	
N.5	<p>The Club shall ensure that all Players and/or Officials of its Participating Team consent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. The making of recordings (visual, audio, or audio/visual and in or on any medium) of their performances and/or appearances during the Competition.</li><li>B. The exploitation of such recordings by HKFA and Official Licensees throughout the world without limit of time by any and all means and in all media whether now known or hereinafter invented (including in and in connection with interactive computer games and software) but excluding any such exploitation in a manner which may reasonably be considered to constitute a personal endorsement by the Player and/or Official of any commercial product or service.</li><li>C. HKFA having the irrevocable right during and following the conclusion of the Competition in perpetuity to use the Participating Team's Player and/or Officials Attributes and/or sub-license such use to the Official Licensees – such use to be in connection with the promotion of HKFA, the competition and the exploitation of the commercial Rights.</li></ul>	

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

N.6	<p>The Club shall procure that the following parties fully comply with the terms of this Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. its Participating Team, the Players and Officials; and</li><li>B. any authorized third parties associated with its Participating Team</li></ul> <p>A. All Players and Participating Team Officials shall be required to attend and participate fully in all Official Functions and media engagements connected with the Competition, and as further set out in Schedule I, and all Players shall arrive in a timely manner and remain until all official activities are completed.</p> <p>B. The Club shall ensure that its Participating Team shall play each Match in which the Participating Team is scheduled to take part in accordance with the Competition Regulations.</p> <p>C. The Club acknowledges and shall ensure that where its Participating Team is nominated by HKFA for a HKFA Award or any other Awards Ceremony organized by HKFA, and or where a Player or Official is nominated for such a HKFA Award or any other Awards Ceremony organized by HKFA, he shall attend the HKFA Award or any other Awards Ceremony organized by HKFA at a time and venue to be advised by HKFA.</p>	
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<b>SECTION O: TERMINATION</b>		
Termination by written agreement		
0.1	HKFA shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement by written notice to The Club, and shall have the right to refuse entry, suspend or disqualify its Participating Team in the event that the Club and/or its Participating Team is in breach of any of the obligations under this agreement and where any such breach has not been remedied (where capable of remedy) within fifteen (15) days of notice given to The Club prior to the commencement of the Competition and within twenty-four (24) hours during the Competition.	
0.2	<p>The Club may terminate this Agreement effective immediately by written notice to HKFA if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. HKFA is adjudicated insolvent, voluntarily declares bankruptcy or makes a general assignment for the benefit of creditors; or</li><li>B. HKFA breaches any material provision of this Agreement (including a series of persistent breaches which by their persistence are material), except if the breach is curable and the HKFA cures the breach within fourteen (14) days after being given written notice containing reasonable particulars of the breach in which case this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect without prejudice to the rights of the parties hereunder.</li></ul>	

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## Competition Regulations & Agreement

<b>SECTION P: FINAL PROVISIONS</b>	
<b>Breaches of These Regulations</b>	
P.1	Any participating club, its official or player commits a breach of the whole or any part of any of these Regulations (not withstanding that it may not have been so expressed) shall be deemed misconduct and be referred to the appropriate bodies of HKFA or other bodies for appropriate action as deem fit at their absolute discretion.
<b>Languages</b>	
P.2	In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English and Chinese texts of these Regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.
<b>No Waiver</b>	
P.3	Any waiver by HKFA of any breach of these Regulations (including of any document referred to in these Regulations) shall not operate as, or be construed to be, a waiver of any other breach of such provision or of any breach of any other provision or a waiver of any right arising out of these Regulations or any other document. Any such waiver shall only be valid if given in writing. Failure by HKFA to insist upon strict adherence to any provision of these Regulations, or any document referred to in these Regulations, on one or more occasions shall not be considered to be a waiver of, or deprive HKFA of the right to subsequently insist upon strict adherence to, that provision or any other provision of these Regulations, or any document referred to in these Regulations.
<b>Ratification and Enforcement</b>	
P.4	These Regulations were ratified by the HKFA Board on <b>5<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b> and came into force immediately.

<b>SECTION Q: FORCE MAJEURE</b>	
<b>Force Majeure</b>	
Q.1	If by any reason of any event affecting the performance by any party hereto of any provision of this Agreement arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents (or the reasonable threat thereof) which are beyond the reasonable control of such party and which could not reasonably have been prevented by such party including, without limitation, any abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, subsidence, structural damage, epidemic 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, any party is delayed in , or prevented from, performing any of the provisions of this Agreement (otherwise than payment of any monies) then such delay or non-performance shall not be deemed to be a breach of this Agreement and no loss or damage shall be claimed by the other party by reason thereof.

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

<b>SECTION R: LIABILITY AND INDEMNITIES</b>		
<b>Liability</b>		
R.1	Neither HKFA nor its officers, agents, employees or assignees shall be liable to the Participating Team, or to any Player and/or Officials, for the death or personal injury of, or damage to property of, or other loss suffered by, the Participating Team, or any Player and/or Official, whether on or off the pitch, where such death, injury or damage occurs in association with or in relation to the Competition.	
R.2	The Club shall obtain and maintain in force, at its own expense adequate property, medical and personal accident insurance for its Participating Team, Players and Officials.	
<b>Indemnities</b>		
R.3	The Club hereby assumes full responsibility and liability for any risk of bodily injury, death, or property damage arising out of or in connection, directly or indirectly, with the Competition and its Participating Team's participation therein, and forever releases, waives and discharges HKFA (including its employees and representatives) from any and all demands, claims, actions, suits, damages, losses, liabilities, costs and expenses arising directly or indirectly in connection with its Participating Team's participation in the Competition.	

<b>SECTION S: GOVERNING LAW, LANGUAGE AND JURISDICTION</b>		
<b>English Language</b>		
S.1	This Agreement has been executed in English and each of the parties represents and warrants that they have reviewed this Agreement and have sufficient knowledge of the English language (or have been advised by someone who has such knowledge) in order to fully understand their respective rights and obligations under this Agreement.	
<b>Laws of Hong Kong</b>		
S.2	This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Hong Kong.	
<b>Jurisdiction</b>		
S.3	Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, or the interpretation, breach, termination or validity hereof, shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules as at present in force and as may be amended by the rest of this Art. S.3. The place of arbitration shall be in Hong Kong. The appointing authority shall be the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre ("HKIAC"). There shall be three (3) arbitrators. The arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in English. Any party to the dispute shall be entitled to seek preliminary injunctive relief, if possible, from any court of competent jurisdiction pending the constitution of the arbitral tribunal.	

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

<b>SECTION T: CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
Confidentiality Agreement	
T.1	This Agreement, its termination or renegotiation, and any confidential information exchanged between HKFA and The Club shall be kept confidential by the parties and shall be revealed to directors, officers, employees, servants and agents of the parties only to the extent necessary to enable each party to fulfil its obligations and responsibilities pursuant to this Agreement.
T.2	The Club shall not without HKFA's prior written consent either during its participation or at any time after its cessation of participation in the Competition disclose or divulge either directly or indirectly to any Person whatsoever or otherwise make use of any confidential information as to the business or finances of the Competition or any other participating club or any of their dealings, transactions or affairs or as to any other matters which may come to its knowledge by reason of its participation save to statutory and regulatory authorities or as may be required by law or to such Officials and Auditors of that club to whom such disclosure is strictly necessary for the purpose of their duties and then only to the extent so necessary.

<b>SECTION U: NOTICE AND SERVICE</b>	
Notice and service	
U.1	<p>Any notice of breach or default must be in writing and sent via registered or certified mail, by verifiable facsimile transmission, or by express courier service with confirmed delivery, to the breaching party at the addresses set forth below (unless written notice of a change of address has been provided). Notices shall be deemed given at the time they are received (or if by fax, upon delivery confirmation).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If to HKFA            55 Fat Kwong Street, Homantin, Kowloon, Hong Kong Fax No.: 2768 8825</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If to The Club        _____ Fax No.: _____</p>

<b>SECTION V: WAIVER</b>	
Waiver	
V.1	Failure or delay by either of the parties to exercise or enforce any right conferred by this Participation Agreement shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any such right nor operate so as to exclude or restrict the exercise or enforcement of that or any other right.

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

<b>SECTION W: ASSIGNMENT</b>		
Assignment		
W.1	This Agreement is personal to the parties and, except as provided otherwise, neither party may assign or transfer any of its rights or obligations hereunder without the prior written consent of the other party.	

<b>SECTION X: ENTIRE AGREEMENT</b>		
Entire Agreement		
X.1	This Agreement shall be binding on the parties and shall constitute the entire agreement and understanding between the parties and, on and from the effective date, cancels, terminates and supersedes any prior agreement or understanding relating to the subject matter hereof.	

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

SECTION Y: MISCELLANEOUS		
Agreement modification		
Y.1	This Agreement may be modified only by an instrument in writing signed by the duly authorized representatives of the parties.	
Scale of agreement		
Y.2	Nothing in this Agreement creates or shall be deemed to create a partnership, agency or joint venture between the parties.	
Terms of agreement		
Y.3	Without prejudice to the rights of termination herein, if any provision of this Agreement is held by a competent authority to be invalid or unenforceable in whole or in part for any reason or for any purpose, the validity of the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not be affected and the parties shall in good faith negotiate a new provision to replace the affected provision.	
Y.4	If there is any divergence in the Chinese version and English version of these Competition Regulations and Agreement, the English version is authoritative. HKFA reserves the rights to revise the relevant content.	

Executed by the person whose name is set out below being a person who is acting under the authority (whether express or implied) of The Hong Kong Football Association Limited (HKFA)

Name:  
Title:  
Signature:

Executed by the person whose name is set out below being a person who is acting under the authority (whether express or implied) of

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Club Name)

Name:  
Title:  
Signature:



# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

### ANNEX I: FURTHER INFORMATION

#### **Disciplinary Matters**

<p>All participating clubs, its Officials and Players undertake to comply with the HKFA Disciplinary Rules 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.</p>
<p>Disciplinary incidents shall be dealt with in compliance with the HKFA Disciplinary Rules in force and all relevant circulars and directives.</p>
<p>HKFA may initiate investigations should it suspect and/or is aware of any violation of current HKFA Constitution, HKFA Disciplinary Rules, the relevant circulars and directives.</p>
<p>HKFA may impose disciplinary measures for any violation of current HKFA Constitution, HKFA Disciplinary Rules, the relevant circulars and directives.</p>
<p>All players and officials being cautioned or dismissed from the Field of Play shall be dealt with by the HKFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the HKFA Disciplinary Rules in force.</p>
<p>Any official or player who fails to conduct oneself in a proper and responsible manner before, during or after the game, including but not limited to misconduct on the field of play, in the technical area, changing rooms and match venue premises, shall be liable to disciplinary action.</p>
<p>Any official or player reported for indiscipline or violent conduct anywhere in the match venue, including but not limited to the field of play and the changing rooms, by the match officials shall be dealt with by the HKFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with HKFA Disciplinary Rules in force.</p>
<p>Any team supporter reported for misconduct before, during or after the game, including but not limited to misconduct on the field of play, in the technical area, changing rooms, spectators stand and match venue premises, the related team or person shall be liable to disciplinary action.</p>
<p>No official, player or a member of the playing teams shall make any disparaging remarks on the match officials of a match; any such remark made by an official, player or a member of the team may render such person liable to disciplinary actions.</p>
<p>Officials, players and members of the playing teams are prohibited from charging at match officials before, during or after the game, for whatever reasons. Any such action shall render the official, Player or member concerned liable to disciplinary actions.</p>
<p>HKFA may impose disciplinary measures for any match fixing by following receipt of reports or any evidence from the FIFA, AFC or any authorized organization.</p>

#### **Code of Ethics**

<p>All participating clubs, its Officials and Players, Match Officials undertake to comply with the FIFA Code of Ethics and all relevant circulars and directives in force at the time of the Competition, and agree in particular to respect the fighting against discrimination, racism and match-fixing activities.</p>
<p>All Officials, Players and Match Officials participating in the Competition shall be required to sign an undertaking HKFA Code of Ethics in force during the Competition, without which their registration shall be void.</p>

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

### **Doping Control**

<p>Doping is strictly prohibited and all participating clubs, its officials and players undertake to refrain from doping as defined by the relevant regulations, circulars and directives of FIFA / AFC / WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) / HKADC (Hong Kong Anti-Doping Committee) / HKFA as well as to accept the same.</p>
<p>Any club, official or player found guilty of breaching the relevant regulations, circulars and directives shall be deemed to have committed gross misconduct and shall be referred to the HKFA Disciplinary and/or appropriate body for such action as deem fit.</p>
<p>HKFA may conduct dope testing and drug testing as according to the in force requirements and procedures as adopted and promulgated by the relevant bodies</p>
<p>Dope testing may be conducted on any player at any match of the Competition and no prior notice shall be given either to the club or to the players concerned.</p>
<p>HKFA shall at its absolute discretion decide on the matches whereby Dope Testing shall be carried out.</p>
<p>Selection of players for Dope Testing shall be made at random, if necessary, HKFA will follow the articles from AFC Anti-Doping Regulations for selecting the players or teams for anti-doping test.</p>

# 2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Competition Regulations & Agreement

### SCHEDULE I - PLAYER'S AND OFFICIAL'S TERMS

In consideration of the Player/Official being invited to participate as a member of the Participating Team in the Competition, the Player/Official provides an undertaking to HKFA and the Participating Team in the terms set out below.

- A. The Player/Official hereby confirms that he has been provided with a copy of the Participating Agreement and has read and understood and hereby agrees to comply fully with the terms contained therein.
- B. The Player/Official consents to the making of recordings (visual, audio, or audio/visual and in or on any medium) of his performances and/or appearances during the Competition. The Player/Official further consents to the exploitation of such recordings by HKFA and Official Licensees throughout the world without limit of time by any and all means and in all media whether now known or hereinafter invented (including in and in connection with interactive computer games and software) but excluding any such exploitation in a manner which may reasonably be considered to constitute a personal endorsement by the Player/Official of any product or service.
- C. The Player/Official hereby grants to HKFA the irrevocable right during and following the conclusion of the Competition to use his Player/Official Attributes and/or sub-license such use to the Official Licensees – such use to be in connection with the promotion of the competition and the exploitation of the Commercial Rights. The Player's/Official's Player/Official Attributes shall not (without his prior written consent) be used in any manner which may reasonably be considered to constitute a personal endorsement by any such Player/Official of any product or service.
- D. The Player/Official hereby grants the HKFA permission to use personal data in match day programmes, team sheets and on the HKFA website.
- E. The Player/Official shall not take part in, co-operate with or assist any other party to undertake activities which amount to ambush marketing in relation to the Competition or the Commercial Rights.
- F. The Player/Official shall comply with all HKFA medical regulations including but not limited to HKFA doping control regulations and hereby consents to all related testing and procedures required to fulfil these regulations.
- G. The Player/Official shall participate in media interviews and press conferences, and shall reasonably co-operate with all accredited media and broadcasters of the Competition.
- H. The Player/Official shall not:
  - i. bet on any Match or series of Matches, or on any matter connected with any Match or series of Matches in which such Player/Official may take part or in which the Member Club of any such individual may be represented;
  - ii. induce or encourage any other person to bet on any Match or series of Matches or on any matter related to the Competition or to offer the facility for such bets to be placed;
  - iii. gamble or enter into any other form of financial speculation on any Match or on any matter related to the Competition;
  - iv. induce or encourage any other person to gamble or enter into any other form of financial speculation on any Match or on any matter related to the Competition;
  - v. be a party to contriving or attempting to contrive the result of any Match or the occurrence of any matter related to the Competition;
  - vi. fail to perform on his merits in any Match owing to an arrangement relating to betting on the outcome of any Match or on the occurrence of any matter related to the competition;

# **2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE**

## **Competition Regulations & Agreement**

- vii. induce or encourage any other player not to perform on his merits in any Match owing to any such arrangement;
  - viii. receive from another person any money, benefit or other reward (whether financial or otherwise) for the provision of confidential information concerning the participating Teams, Players, unless such information has been provided in the normal course of business; or
  - xi. receive or provide any money, benefit or other reward (whether financial or otherwise) which could bring him or the game of football into disrepute.
- I. The Player/Official agrees to abide by the directions and decisions of the Disciplinary Committee in connection with the Players/Officials participation in the Competition and regarding the Player's/Official's compliance with these Player Terms. The Player further agrees to abide by the decisions and directions of the Referee and Match Commissioner of each Match.
- J. The Player/Official hereby assumes full responsibility and liability for any risk of bodily injury, death or property damage arising out of or in connection, directly or indirectly with the Player's/Official's participation in the Competition, and forever releases, waives and discharges HKFA (including its employees and representatives) from any and all demands, claims, actions, suits, damages, losses, liabilities, cost and expenses arising directly or indirectly in connection therewith.

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## Competition Regulations & Agreement

### APPENDIX I: MATCH RUNDOWN

Pursuant to art. F.1 of these Regulations, a Hong Kong Premier Match shall be staged according to the rundown as below:-

Countdown	Activity
- 01' 45"	Enforcement of access control
- 01' 30"	Opening of stadium
- 01' 30"	Latest arrival time for match officials
- 01' 30"	Latest arrival time for teams
- 01' 30"	Teams' submission of team sheet
- 01' 15"	Checking of Home Team players' identity and equipment
- 01' 10"	Checking of Away Team players' identity and equipment
- 00' 50" to - 00' 20"	Teams warm-up
- 00' 30"	Production and distribution of official start list
- 00' 10"	Substitute players and officials to be on the bench
- 00' 08"	Starting players and match officials to be in the tunnel
- 00' 07"	Referees check on starting list players list and players' equipment
- 00' 05"	Start of processional entry
- 00' 03"	Pre-match ceremony
- 00' 03"	Announcement of team list
- 00' 00"	Kick-off
2" will be added from the rundown starting from the gathering of starting players and match officials if there will be other pre-match activities, e.g. VIP Handshake, added to the programme.	
Half-time break will be 15 minutes from whistle (end of 1 <sup>st</sup> half) to whistle (start of 2 <sup>nd</sup> half).	
Players gathering at the centre-circle immediately after the final whistle for post-match handshake (re. art. F.51).	
Post-match media conference (if any) will be held 15 minutes after the final whistle (ref. art. F.52).	

# **2020-21 HKFA PREMIER LEAGUE**

## **Competition Regulations & Agreement**

### **APPENDIX II: POWERS & DUTIES OF THE MATCH DELEGATE**

If a Match Delegate is appointed to a Hong Kong Premier League match pursuant to art. G.2, he shall have following powers and duties:-

1. He shall act as the official representative of HKFA at the match.
2. He shall arrive at the venue at least ninety (90) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time.
3. Sixty (60) minutes before the kick-off, he will proceed to the changing rooms of both teams to collect the team sheet and to ascertain the player's eligibility to play by checking his identity.
4. After checking, he will sign on the official start list for dissemination to the match officials, playing teams, media and appropriate parties.
5. He will be seated in a prominent seat where he can get the best overview of the stadium.
6. He will submit a confidential report in the required format containing a summary of the match data, a brief description of his observations on, inter alia, the behavior of the teams, attitude of spectators, general organization, police service, medical service, press organization, special incidents and any other remarks.
7. If there is any violence or incident before, during and after the match, he shall submit a separate report on the incident identifying the trouble-makers (as far as possible).
8. He shall submit reports on all controversial incidents relating to, inter alia, disciplinary issues and goal scoring.
9. He shall also submit reports on any misconduct or other incident that occurred out of the view of the match officials.
10. He shall submit his report(s) to HKFA by fax or by e-mail not later than forty-eight (48) hours after the match, notwithstanding that it may be a Saturday, Sunday or a Public Holiday.
11. He shall refrain from making statements to the media especially on decision made by the match officials.

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## **Competition Regulations & Agreement**

### **APPENDIX III: POWERS & DUTIES OF THE FOURTH OFFICIAL**

A Fourth Official will be appointed to a Hong Kong Premier League match pursuant to art. G.4 and he shall have following powers and duties:-

1. He will assist with any administrative duties before, during and after the match as required by the referee.
2. He will be responsible for assisting with substitution procedure during the match.
3. He has the authority to check the equipment of substitutes before they enter the field of play. If the equipment does not comply with the Laws of the Game, he informs the referee.
4. He supervises the replacement footballs where required. If the match ball has to be replaced during a match, he provides another ball, on the instruction of the referee, thus keeping the delay to a minimum.
5. He shall assist the referee at all times to control the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game. The referee, however, retains the authority to decide on all points connected with play.
6. He must indicate to the referee when the wrong player is cautioned because of mistaken identity or when a player is not sent off having been seen to be given a second caution or when violent conduct occurs out of view of the referee and assistant referees.
7. After the match, he must submit a report to HKFA on any misconduct or other incident that occurred out of the view of the referee and assistant referees. He must advise the referee and assistant referees of any report being made.
8. He has the authority to inform the referee of irresponsible behavior by any occupants of the technical area (ref. art. F.47). He shall identify all occupants of the technical area before the start of the match and ensure that they display their eligibility and access card on a visible part of their body throughout the match.
9. He shall officiate if any of the three officials, i.e. referee and assistant referees, is unable to continue.