2022 Macau Football League (First Division)

Competition Regulations

Article 1 Competition Name and Nature……1
Article 2 Competition Management……1
Article 3 Participating Team……...1
Article 4 Competition System……1
Article 5 Promotion and Relegation System ……..……2
Article 6 Equipment……3
Article 7 Registration Fee and Time……...3
Article 8 Registration Procedures and Player Registration…….……4
Article 9 Player Screening……...5
Article 10 Competition Period.....6
Article 11 Qualified Players Representing the Macao SAR……7
Article 12 Venue Rules and Competition Time……....7
Article 13 Cancellation Process……8
Article 14 Scoring System……8
Article 15 Awards.....9
Article 16 Referee and Assistant Referee……9
Article 17 Appeal……..9
Article 18 Infringement of Regulations……...10
Article 19 Regulations Modification and Interpretation……..10

Article 1　Competition Name and Nature

1. The Macau Football Association organizes First Division, Second Division, Third Division, Junior Division, and Senior Division Competitions in the 2021 competition year; as well as the FA Cup and Tong-Lok Cup competitions.
2. The Macau Football Association (hereinafter abbreviated as "the Association") reserves the right to put on the sponsor name or its product name during any of the above stated competitions.
3. If a club is crowned with a sponsorship name, the club must annually apply to the Association and must approve it through the council.
4. Except otherwise stated in this regulation, all others are implemented in accordance with the current regulations of the Macau Football Association.

Article 2　Competition Management

1. The competitions to be held by the Association are solely managed by the Macau Football Association which is responsible for the execution of this regulation as well as the decision to review the team's qualifications for the competitions.
2. This competition only accepts legal organizations whose Articles of Association are approved for publication in the Official Gazette, and sports groups confirmed by the Macau Sports Bureau are eligible to participate.
3. All qualifying clubs can only send one team to the competition. Upon registration, the club will agree to and abide by all the terms of this regulation.
4. The council of the Association reserves the right to modify or update the regulation of this competition when deemed necessary.
5. This competition will be based on the Laws of the Game (2020/2021) by the International Football Association Board.

Article 3　Participating Team

1. There are a total of ten teams in the current First Division competition, which consists of the eight teams that reserved the seats from First Division in the 2019 season as well as the two teams from Second Division that were promoted in the 2019 season.

2. In the event of insufficient number of entries, the Council of the Association has the right to determine the member of the teams in each Division . When there are less than 6 teams in the advanced team and Tong-Lok Cup competitions, the Council reserves the right to cancel the decision to hold the competition. Once the event is cancelled, the Association will notify the registered team and return all paid registration fees.

Article 4 Competition System

1. The league of First Division uses a double-circulation system to rank with points.
2. If the game is suspended due to the epidemic:
   i) If the game can be resumed, and the number of matches under the double-circulation is not affected, the relevant schedule will be postponed;
   ii) If the game can be resumed, and the number of matches under the double-circulation is affected, the final result of the game will be determined according to the following:
   a. If the competition has completed the single round, then will use the result as final result.
   b. The competition will depend on how many rounds are left, and the final result will be discussed by the MFA Executive Committee.

   If the above competitions are cancelled, then Cup competition will be considered to arrange base on the government given schedule of the venue.

Article 5 Promotion and Relegation System

1. After the end of all competitions in this year's First Division, the last two teams of the ranking list will be relegated to Second Division next year.
2. In the next competition year, any team in First Division, Second Division, Third Division and Junior Division that fails to perform the obligation to promote, repeat or delegate, it will have to abandon the competition. The Association reserves the right to prohibit the team from participating in any competition organized by the Association in the following two years. (After the expiry of the prohibition period, if the team wants to participate in the competition, the team must make a written application to the Association that needs to be approved by the Council, but the team only can participate the lowest category of the competition). The vacancy in its seats will be filled according to the following priorities:

i) The teams which abandon to promote, its vacancies are:

a) The higher ranked team in the upper division repeats to fill;

b) The team with the higher rank in the same division fills up for it.

ii) The teams which abandon to delegate, its vacancies are:

a) The higher ranked team in the same division repeats to fill;

b) The higher ranked team in the lower division promote to fill.

iii) The teams which abandon to delegate, its vacancies are repeated to fill by the teams with higher rank in the next level division.

3. If First, Second, third divisions did not able to complete due to the epidemic, then Promotion and Relegation for that year will be cancelled.

4. In the absence of any mention of the above, in order for the competition to be held as usual, the Association reserves the right to choose the teams to fill the vacancies.

Article 6 Equipment

1. The venue where the competition will be held is decided by the Association which is responsible for compiling the schedule and notifying the team about the competition. The football ball_ used for the competition is provided by the Association.
2. Each team must register for home and guest jerseys, shorts and socks. The team must be greeted by the players and their home jerseys, shorts and socks one week before the end of the first competition. Or submit it to the secretariat of the Association by email for verification.
3. According to the layout of the schedule, the front is the home team and the back is the visiting team. The home team must wear the registered jerseys, shorts and socks. When the colors of both teams' jerseys are similar, the visiting team must wear the registered uniforms that are obviously different from the home team jersey. If the visiting team fails to comply, the visiting team shall consider it as a withdraw.
4. If the team makes a valid complaint one week before the competition, the Association has the right to approve the change of jersey color. Once the shirt color is approved for change, it cannot be changed again.
5. After each team has played the first competition, the player's jersey number must not be replaced. The numbers on the jerseys and pants must be within 1-99, and number 1 must be reserved for the goalkeeper.
6. If the team can provide valid reasons, the Association has the right to approve the change in the number of players' jerseys in the middle of the competition.
7. The players must wear shin guards during the game.

8. During the game, reserve players and team staff must wear different colored sportswear from the players in the game.
9. If any name or pattern is required to be printed on the jersey, it must be submitted in advance and must be approved by the Council of the Association before it can be printed and adopted.
10. During the game, the referee has the right to request the team to replace substandard jerseys, shorts or socks.
11. If the player wears underwear (commonly known as bottoming shirt), the color of his sleeve must be the same as the main color of the sleeves of his jersey; if the player is wearing tight underwear (commonly known as leggings), the color must be the main color of the pants or the bottom of the pants. However, the same team player must wear the same color in order to compete.
12. According to the guidelines of D. Bosco Stadium, if the matches are scheduled to be held at D. Bosco Stadium, the players wearing less than 16 rubber nailed soccer shoes are not suitable for the competition.
13. If the equipment is in compliance with the regulations, the referee has the absolute right to decide.

Article 7 Registration Fee and Time

1. Registration fee:

i) First Division - MOP 2000.(In addition to the circumstances of Article 3, paragraph 9, if the team is accepted registration, the fee will not be refunded.)

2. The registration procedures for the games will be to register first and then submit the information of the team. If the team fails to submit the fees and information within the deadline, it will be considered as withdraw of the game. The Association has the right to prohibit the team from joining any event organized by the Association in the following two years. (If you want to play after the expiry of the two years ban, you must make a written application to this Council and wait for the approval of the Council before you can compete with the lowest category of the event).

3. Registration time: First Division: **(December 22 to 30, 2021)**

5. Submit player information time: First Division: **(January 4 to 7 2022)**

6. Competition start time: **(January 2022)**

6. As Macau is still in the epidemic prevention, in order to cooperate with the SAR government's epidemic prevention guidelines, relevant measures have also been

formulated for this tournament. All participating teams and players must pay attention to it.

Article 8 Registration and Player Registration

1. All participating officials and players must provide proof of having received two doses of the coronavirus vaccine at least 14 days before the first match. For those who have not been vaccinated, a proof of a one-time nucleic acid test within 7 days before the first game is required for the registration to be accepted.

2. Teams of First Division, Second Division, Third Division must submit no less than 17 players for registration, each team can register up to 26 players (including up to 8 foreign players).

i) Under the premise that each team can register up to 26 players, if the teams of First Division, Second Division, Third Division has a team players that will join the year's Youth Team Competition in this, a maximum of 6 places (ie, 17 to 20 registered players in the team) can be reserved for the team and the team can appoint the youth players to compete for that team. As long as the above rules are met, the team can appoint different young players to compete in each game; ii) Compliance with the Terms 2. t before the second cycle starts for First and Second Division, and before April 30 for Third Division, if they are in situation i), the above places can be adjusted without exceeding the 6 reserved places, overdue cannot be adjusted again; iii) Each designated youth player must inform the Association in writing before three working days or more prior in order to prepare a list of player by the Association.

3. The leader of each team shall be appointed by a member of the council of Association or an authorized person. The leader, instructors, assistants and players who are stated in the data sheet, must not concurrently serve other clubs in the same group. Violators will be dealt with in accordance to Article 18 of this chapter.

4. The team must present the player's registration certificate, health certificate, and registration form (fax or email must be provided) before registration.

5. The information provided in the registration form must be true, players must sign on the registry and registration form in accordance with the submitted identification document.

6. Each player can only represent one club, if any player is found to be registered at the same time by two or more players for the club, it is a violation. The council of Association will investigate the club or player. Violators will be subject to penalties in accordance with Article 18 of this chapter.

7. During the registration period, if a new player is added to the team, they will need to register with the Football Association three working days before the day of the match. Players who are not registered will not be allowed to play.

8. Registration deadline:

i) Before the finish of the first round for First Division

9. During the registration period, the team has the right to cancel the registration of players and register new players, but it cannot violate the principles 2 through 6 of this article.

10. Once unregistered, players may not re-register in this competition year.

11. Players who are suspended from the competition must be deregistered after the expiration of the suspension.

12. The replacement of each player registration card is required to pay MOP 300.

13. Joining the First Division of 2022, the Head Coach must be staffed by a person who holds an AFC grade B or higher diploma. (For 2023 season, Team head coach must hold the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) A-level or above coaching diploma)

14. All the players must provide health certificates issued by a registered doctor of the Macao Health Bureau to accept registration.

Article 9 Screening of Players

Player qualification

1. Before the deadline of registration, if there are fewer than 26 players registered for the team of First Division, the number of players may increase to 26, but the club cannot violate the principles of Article 8, Item 2 of this Chapter.

2.. Considering that this event is deals with amateur players, player registration is valid for the current year (including the FA Cup). The completion of the annual tournament (including the FA Cup) is deemed invalid.

3. All players holding a Macao resident identity card issued by the Macao Special Administrative Region Identification Bureau are considered to be local players, otherwise they are considered as foreign players.

4. For the matches of First Division, up to four foreign players can be allowed to play (allowing foreign player to substitute foreign player, but after a foreign player is expelled from the match by the red card, up to three foreign players are allowed on the match to play.); When the foreign player quota is exceeded in the match, it is a violation, and violators will be subject to penalties in accordance to Article 9, Item 9 of this Chapter.

5. For the matches of First Division, the teams must have at least four players with a Macao permanent resident identity card during the match at the start of the game, otherwise it is a violation, violators will be subject to the penalties in accordance with Article 9, Item 9 of this Chapter.

6. Each player that accumulates three yellow cards is automatically suspended (yellow cards accumulated by the First Division, Second Division, Third Division in the FA Cup are also counted).

7. The calculations of red and yellow cards accumulated by youth competitors are calculated separately from the red and yellow cards of First Division, Second Division, Third Division and Junior Division, except in cases of serious violations (I.e. two or more penalty suspensions of the case).

8. If the player of youth competition is involved in a serious violation of Article 7, he shall not be allowed to represent the club at a match for First Division, Second Division, Third Division or Youth competition.

Unqualified and offending players

9. If any club sends unqualified or offending players to play, the council of Association will make an investigation. If that is verified, the offender will be subject to the following sanctions (one or more):

i) Judged that the club lose, with 0 to 3 as the result;

ii) Each sent a unqualified or offending player to play a fine of MOP1,000;

10. The transfer certificate arrangements for foreign players from other countries/regions participate in local competitions:

i) If a player from a country other than Macau is registered overseas, he must submit a certificate of international transfer, the Association also needs to receive a reply from the Association of his parent club in connection to registration of the player in that country, then the player can be registered;

ii) If a player from a country other than Macau declares that he is not registered overseas, the club must declare in writing that the player was not registered in a foreign/regional competition before registering for the competition in Macau.

11. If the Council finds that the registration of the foreign players referred to above paragraph (i) in the countries/territories other than Macau is still in effect, it will be treated as providing false data. All the games that that player played will be deemed to be in violation of the rules. The club that he belongs to will be fined MOP1,000 for each non-compete game and the match will be registered at a loss of 0:3.

12. In addition to the competition, this Ordinance is applicable to other events hosted by the Macau Football Association.

Article 10 Schedule

1. Macau Football competition for this year starts in March 2021.

2. The schedule is determined by the Association and announced ten days before the start of each group.

3. In the event of that a game cannot be started or completed due to special circumstances, the day of the rematch will be determined so as not to affect the pre-determined schedule. The team will be notified three days before the match.

4. If team is fit to play (Article 3 of this chapter), the Council reserves the right to make final decisions on changing the game system (Article 4 of this chapter).

5. Once a lot is drawn, the scheduled event must be held. Any club that fails to comply with this rule will be subject to the following criteria:

i) For the matches of First Division, Second Division, Third Division, FA Cup, if there is any club that has less than 11 players from the start of the match until the start of the second half (except for those who have been expelled from the court by the ball), it is deemed as lack of sportsmanship. The Association will issue a warning in writing to the team. If this practice is repeated, that team will be disqualified from the remaining events and will be disqualified from the competition for the next time. (For a period of one year, if the team want to compete after the expiry of the period, it must make a written application to the Association and be approved by the Council before commencing with the lowest category of the event)

ii) For the matches of First Division, Second Division, Third Division, FA Cup, even if the team did not violate the requirements of item i), the team's injury caused the match to be less than the statutory person (ie, less than seven players), there must be enough reserve players as substitutes so that the players presented may reach the statutory target, otherwise it is considered as lack of sportsmanship. The Association will issue a warning in writing to the

team. If this practice is repeated, the team will be disqualified from the remaining events and will be disqualified from the competition for the next time. (For a period of one year, if the team wants to compete after the expiry of the period, it must make a written application to the Association and be approved by the Council before commencing with the lowest category of the event)

iii) Teams that abstained from playing a match or abstained from playing (in the middle of the game) will be fined MOP 2,000 (after the penalty is paid, they will be allowed to compete in the remaining events). If it is repeated, the team will be fined MOP 5000 and will not be allowed to join the event sponsored by the Macau Football Association during next two years (the suspension date will be counted from the date of payment of the fines. if the team wants to compete after the expiry of the period, it must make a written application to the Association and be approved by the Council before commencing with the lowest category of the event).

vi) A penalty of MOP 10,000 will be imposed if a team withdraws from the competition, and will not be allowed to join an event sponsored by the Macau Football Association during next two years (the suspension date will be counted from the date of payment of the fines. if the team want to compete after the expiry of the period, it must make a written application to the Association and be approved by the Council before commencing with the lowest category of the event).

6. If a club has three players or more (not including the youth competition players) on behalf of the Macau Special Administrative Region that participate in international competitions, the affected events can be rescheduled, and the event date will be decided by the Association.

7. Notices issued by the Association will be send to the clubs by fax or e-mail registered by the Association and published on the website of the Macau Football Association. The Association only needs to complete one of the above communication methods.

8. In case of a rematch, both parties are not allowed to send a player who has been suspended for the match.

9. If there is no mention of the above, the council of Association reserves the right to make the final decision.

Article 11 Qualified player who represents Macau S.A.R.

1. According to the relevant provisions of FIFA, when a player is selected to participate in the Macau team to compete in the A-class match, the club is responsible for releasing the registered player, and it is forbidden to have a private agreement with the player to violate this rule.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article apply to all international events, including futsal international matches, futsal world cups and any A-class matches.

3. The Club has the right to recruit players up to 14 days before the day or the first day of international match (the actual recruiting time will be based on FIFA's player release date for the match), and the Club will received the notice of the obligation for releasing the player 5 days before the first day of the player's recruitment.

4. In the event of a violation of the above provisions, the Disciplinary Committee of the Club will make a verdict on the violation.

Article 12 Stadium Rules and Match Time

1. Football matches organized by the Association can be arranged in any safe stadium if it is limited by the chosed location

2. Whether or not the weather conditions allow for a match to be held **is the authority of the referee and the match commissioner of the match.**

3. If any accident happens to a player during the game, the MFA won't be responsible, the team or the player shall be self-responsible. The Macau Football Association will not be responsible for any responsibility.

4. The usage of the seats in the reserve bench are only for the following persons (7 official and 10 reserve players) and shall not be used by other persons (MUST wear the ID pass provided by MFA):

   i) Team Manager;
   ii) Head Coach;
   iii) Coach Assistant;
   iv) Team Doctor;
   v) Reserve player with different colors of sportswear from players in the match;
   vi) Kit Manager.

   Notice: All participating officials and players must provide proof of having received two doses of the coronavirus vaccine at least 14 days before the first match. For those who have not been vaccinated, a proof of a one-time nucleic acid test within 7 days before the first game is required for the registration to be accepted.

5. If the team player is not present before or during the half-time of the match, it is absolutely forbidden for that player to enter the pitch.

6. The time for the game of First Division, Second Division, Third Division and FA Cup is set at 90 minutes, which is divided into the first and second half of the 45 minutes, with no more than 15 minutes rest time in the middle. The number of reserve player substitutions is three (Substitution does not count during halftime) , total number of 5 players.

7. 30 minutes before the start of each game, the club head/squad must complete and sign the relevant competition form, and submit the form and player information form **to the Match Commissioner and assistant referee**.

8. If the team lacks a player information form, it is deemed as a waiver and is processed in accordance with Article 10, item 5, point iii of this Chapter.

9. The team must enter the stadium according to the scheduled time (including the 15-minute half-time break). If the match cannot be played at the scheduled time due to team reasons, the referee will record the first occurrence, and a written warning will

be issue to the team. If the offense is repeated, the referee has the right to rule the team as a waiver, and deal with it in accordance with Article 10, Item 5, iii of this regulation.

Article 13 Treatment of lumbosacral

1. The match time for the First Division, Second Division, Third Division and FA cup is 90 minutes. If for any reason the match is not completed within 90 minutes, the Council reserves the right to determine whether the ratio at that time has already become a final result or is required to be replayed for another 90 minutes.

2. Any issues that happen during the match should be self-handled and settled by the club.

3. If the stadium is not suitable for the match due to the weather restraints (if typhoon signal No. 8 is still hoisted at the Macau Observatory at 13:00 on the day of the match or a rainstorm warning is hoisted 1 hours before the match, all competitions are cancelled on that day) or other circumstances, the game supervisor has the right to abort the match, and clearly stated decision in the competition report.

4.The referee has the absolute right to decide if the match should be aborted due to a violation of discipline or other circumstances that may cause the match to be cancelled. Afterwards, the council reserves the following processing after revising the investigation report:

i) Football Federation accepts its result;

ii) Cancel the original record, the relevant team needs to replay;

iii) Extra match within the rest times of the aborted match, but both team players must be the players in the aborted match.

Article 14 Scoring Method

1. In each game, the scores are assigned as follows: the winner has 3 points, each gets 1 point in a draw, and loser gets 0 point. ◦

2.In case a team withdraw or disqualified from the competition, all points of that team will be cancelled. (If more than half a game was played, the points will be retained; if the game is not played, it will be 0:3.)

3. Whenever two or more teams have the same score, the ranking is determined in the following order:

i) Same score but team who have withdraw will be ranked last.
ii) With the highest score in the team against the same score- ranked higher.
iii) With the best goal difference in a team with the same points- ranked higher.
iv) The player with the most goals in a team match with the same points – ranked higher.
v) The player who has won the most times in all competitions- ranked higher.
vi) The best total difference between goals won and lost in all games- ranked higher.
vii) The player with the most goals in all games- ranked higher.
Viii) When the above seven conditions still not able to determine the ranking, the ranking will be determined by a play-off.

Article 15 Awards

1. The trophies and medals of the First Division will be awarded as follows:

i) Champion, the first runner-up, the second runner-up and third runner-up: A trophy and 36 medals.

2. The trophies and medals of the first stage and the second stage of the FA Cup will be awarded as follows:

i) Champion, the first runner-up, the second runner-up and third runner-up: A trophy and 36 medals.

Article 16 Referee and Assistant Referee

1. This year's tournament will appoint the referee and assistant referee from the list of registered referees.。

2. If the referee fails to attend the match, the Associstion will arrange other registered referees to perform the work of the referee or assistant referee before the start of the match.

3. The referee who has been delegated may change to serve as another referee when he fails to hold his original position.

4. The game must be played according to the scheduled time. If the game cannot be played at the scheduled time. The referee must report the reason of delayed starting to the Council in written format. If the assistant referee or his/her own is late or absent, he must also explain to the Council in writing the reason for being late or absent.

5. The referee must submit the player appearance list, substitution records, referee reports, all red card expulsion events, and other misconduct reports (including players, club staff, or spectators) to the Council within 48 hours after the match.

6. Player appearance list: Teams or coaches must submit the player information sheet and the player appearance list (form) issued by the Council to the match supervisor before the match. Football supervision must check the identities of all players.

7. The assistant referee must check whether all the players' equipment meets the specifications of the match.

8. If requested by the referee, the player must sign on the appearance list.

9. The player appearance list must show the registration number and jersey number of each player, and must be signed by the squad or the coach before the match to confirm the correctness.

10. The referee must fill the name of the assistant referee of that match in the report.

11. During the competition, only the captains of the two sides can consult the referee about the judgment and ask for explanation.

Article 17 Appeal

1. At the end of the competition, if any team in the match finds that their rights and interests have been compromised, the coach of the team (according to the registration of the registration form) may appeal to the supervisor on-site and sign a referee report to verify the situation, and appeal in written format attached with MOP 2,000 of appeal fee within one working day after that. Otherwise, the appeal will not be accepted, in case the appeal wins, the appeal fee can be reimbursed.

2. If anyone is dissatisfied with any appeal, it is able to make a complaint under Article 64 of the FIFA Statutes.

Article 18 Treatment for violation of the regulation

1. If any club, club staff, player is found to violate this regulation misconducts in another way, the Council reserves the right to cancel the qualification of the club, the club staff or the player from participation in the match, suspend the membership or the team for a specified period of time, fine or any other disposition deemed appropriate by the Council. If any club is disqualified during the event, the Council shall have the right to give the remaining team scores to the rest teams of the match. The penalty imposed by the Council cannot be more than MOP10,000. All fines must be paid within 14 days.

2. During the match, the player is banned by a referee's yellow card or red card to expel the field. There are no appeals for any red or yellow cards in any matches (unless there is sufficient evidence to prove that the referee misjudged the player).

3. If the player is banished by the red card due to the accumulation of two yellow cards in the same match, there will be no appeal (unless there is sufficient evidence to prove that the referee misjudged the player).

4. If the club does not follow the scheduled competitions, withdraws from the competition, abstains from the competition, during the competition, or commits any other violations, the Council will independently impose a penalty on each issue.

5. If any of the above is not mentioned, the Council reserves the right of final decision.

Article 19 Revision and Interpretation of the Chapter

1. The Macau Football Association Council reserves the right to make amendments, additions, deletions and interpretations of any provisions of this chapter.。

2. If it is necessary to amend or add to the content of this Chapter, the Macau Football Association Council has the right to make changes at any time with the approval of the Appeal Committee.

3. In the event of any dispute or infringement of this chapter, the Macau Football Association reserves the right of final decisions and all shall be handled and retained by itself.

4. If there are any content not mentioned in this Chapter, the Council reserves the right of final decision.