



SAUDI ARABIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Regulation for the Regulatory and Technical Requirements for Private Clubs to Obtain Membership and Participate in the Saudi Football Federation Championships

2023 / 2024



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(This regulation is developed to establish the rules and procedures for obtaining membership in the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, enabling participation in competitions and championships.)



Article I: Membership Requirements

1. Obtaining a private club license from the Ministry of Sports, in accordance with the requirements for licensing private clubs (Nafes Program) via the following link:
<https://www.mos.gov.sa/en/nafes/Pages/index.html>.
2. Fulfilling the technical requirements as specified by the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (“SAFF”) (Coach's Work Mechanism and Club Inspection Form).
3. Paying the annual fee of membership in SAFF, which is set at 10,000 Saudi Riyals and shall be paid annually into the SAFF's account. Payment Website Link:
<https://www.saff.com.sa/saffpayment.php>.
4. Acknowledging complete commitment to comply with the Statutes of SAFF, in accordance with the approved acknowledgment form (Commitment Form).
5. Acknowledging complete commitment to comply with the rules, regulations and calendar of SAFF and the Ministry of Sports (“MoS”).
 - Adhering to membership principles for participation.
 - Showing complete respect for the sport and its rules as issued by the International Football Federation Council.
 - Demonstrating respect and consideration for the principles of integrity, fair play, and sportsmanship.
 - Recognizing that sports-related disputes shall be referred to the appropriate judicial or arbitration bodies within SAFF, the Sports Arbitration Center, or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), while seeking resolution through regular courts in such cases shall be prohibited.

Article II: Requirements for Participation in the Saudi Football Federation Competitions

1. Obtaining membership as outlined in Article I.
2. Commitment to participate in accordance with the annual circular issued by the Competitions Committee.
3. The club shall possess a legally approved stadium suitable for hosting official matches, as indicated in Form No. 9, and shall meet the regulatory requirements for participation as per the Inspection Form.



4. The number of registered players shall adhere to the Official Registration Regulation (<https://www.saff.com.sa/uploadcenter/saffFiles1629800741.pdf>).
5. Adherence to submitting an acknowledgment from the club to the Youth and Academies Department to create an account in the MY SAFF system.
6. If there is a request to participate in youth categories, it shall conform to the requirements set by the SAFF Competitions Committee.

Article III: Club Rights

1. Participation in the first team's competitions, starting from the lowest division (Fourth Division).
2. Participation in continental and regional championships upon qualification.
3. The entitlement to all financial rewards presented by SAFF in its championships, subject to the regulation of each competition.
4. Attendance at General Assembly meetings if the club becomes one of the designated members as per the Statutes.
5. Official registration of players in the SAFF systems (MY SAFF) and other officially approved systems.
6. Registration of the club in the SAFF systems after submitting the club's acknowledgment to SAFF (Acknowledgment Form).

Article IV: Participation Plan

A. Men

	The initial participation of private clubs in the SAFF championships
1	Kingdom Championship for regions of lower categories
2	Higher division championship (if qualified)
3	Participation in official refresher championships for youth categories organized by SAFF

B. Women



	The initial participation of private clubs in the SAFF championships
1	Kingdom Championship for regions of lower categories
2	Higher division championship (if qualified)
3	Participation in official refresher championships for youth categories organized by SAFF

- SAFF shall conduct an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses at the end of each season to determine whether to continue with or amend the participation plan, including the addition of specific conditions if deemed necessary, in collaboration with the concerned authorities.

Article V: Participation Procedures

A. Procedure for Participation in Men's Competitions

1. Private clubs shall be treated as government clubs when participating in the regional championships (Fourth Division) even if they qualify for higher divisions.
2. The participation of the club, for first team and youth categories, shall comply with the regulations set forth by the Competitions Committee and Youth Department.
3. Player eligibility, registration, and transfers shall adhere to the SAFF's (MY SAFF) registration system. Each player shall receive a card specifying the club's name and the sports season he is participating in.
4. New club participation, upon project implementation, shall begin from the lowest division (currently the Fourth Division), and his membership shall be in place at least two months before the commencement of the sports season in which he plans to participate.
5. Should the club advance to the professional league or participate in continental competitions, it shall meet all Asian License criteria before competing at the continental level.



6. The club shall be responsible for covering all expenses and costs related to away matches.
7. The club shall be responsible for all operational expenses associated with hosting home matches, including the costs of medical and industrial security personnel, except for referees and match observers' fees.
8. The club shall hold full responsibility for the readiness of its stadium for its home matches, in accordance with all provisions outlined in Article II.

B. Procedure for Participation in Women's Competitions

1. Private clubs shall be treated as government clubs when participating in the regional championships (Second Division) even if they qualify for higher divisions.
2. The participation of the club, for first team, youth categories and refresher league, shall comply with the regulations set forth by the Competitions Committee and Youth Department.
3. Player eligibility, registration, and transfers shall adhere to the SAFF's (MY SAFF) registration system. Each player shall receive a card specifying the club's name and the sports season she is participating in.
4. New club participation, upon project implementation, shall begin from the lowest division (currently the Second Division), and her membership shall be in place at least two months before the commencement of the sports season in which she plans to participate.
5. Should the club advance to the women's professional league or participate in continental competitions, it shall meet all Asian License criteria before competing at the continental level.
6. The club shall be responsible for covering all expenses and costs related to away matches.
7. The club shall be responsible for all operational expenses associated with hosting home matches, including the costs of medical and industrial security personnel, except for referees and match observers' fees.



8. The club shall hold full responsibility for the readiness of its stadium for its home matches, in accordance with all provisions outlined in Article II.

Article VI: Technical Requirements for Private Clubs (Men and Women)

A. Training Facility:

1. At least a playground shall be available throughout the year for the team and shall be suitable for training, taking into account all security and safety factors.
2. Administrative building.
3. Two player changing rooms and one for coaches, along with an ample number of restroom and shower facilities.
4. A medically equipped room with first aid supplies.
5. The presence of a doctor during training sessions.
6. Training equipment.

B. Official Match Facility:

1. A primary stadium located within the club's region/city for hosting matches, with dimensions meeting FIFA's approved standards (refer to Schedule 9). The stadium's spectator capacity for men's teams shall meet the following criteria:
 - I: Third and Fourth Division Clubs: A minimum of 500 spectators.
 - II: Second Division Clubs: A minimum of 800 spectators.
 - III: First Division Clubs: A minimum of 3,000 spectators.
 - IV: Professional League Clubs: A minimum of 5,000 spectators.
2. A primary stadium located within the club's region/city for hosting matches, with dimensions meeting FIFA's approved standards (see Schedule 9). The stadium's spectator capacity for women's teams shall meet the following criteria:
 - I: Third and Fourth Division Clubs: A minimum of 300 spectators.
 - II: Second Division Clubs: A minimum of 400 spectators.
 - III: First Division Clubs: A minimum of 500 spectators.
 - IV: Premier League Clubs: A minimum of 1,000 spectators.
3. At least two changing rooms (one for each team), connected to an ample number of restrooms and shower rooms, shall be provided.



4. Adequate rooms for referees, match observers, and ball retrievers, as well as a doping control room, shall be provided.
5. Support services shall be provided, including both fixed and mobile sales points, designated public restroom facilities, and accessible areas for individuals with special needs, all in accordance with the approved standards in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
6. Adequate first aid services shall be available within the pitch, including the presence of an ambulance in sufficient numbers, contingent on the number of the spectators. Matches shall not commence without their presence.
7. Adequate security and safety measures shall be in place for players, match officials, and the spectators.
8. Security personnel shall be on-site at least one hour prior to the start of the match, and the match shall not start if they are not present.

Article VII: Training Staff

1. A coaching staff with specialized qualifications, holding Asian coaching licenses or their equivalent, commensurate with the team's level of play (refer to attached document), shall be appointed.
2. When entering into a coaching contract, coaches shall submit their credentials and certificates to the Technical Committee for the issuance of a professional coaching card, allowing them to work with the team during matches, via the MY SAFF platform.
3. Complete adherence to the regulations established by the Technical Committee for coaches shall be ensured. This shall include complying with guidelines upon terminating a contract with a team, refraining from coaching any other team within the same season, and following the stipulations for professional coaching card issuance.
4. In the presence of youth categories within the club a head coach, assistant coach, and goalkeeper coach shall be appointed. Additionally, it is recommended to have a fitness coach dedicated to these categories.



5. The coach-to-player ratio shall not fall below one coach for every 18 players.
6. In the case of youth categories (refer to attachment 1), a general coach responsible for overseeing all technical aspects shall be appointed.

Article VIII: Administrative Staff

1. A full-time Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall be appointed to oversee the club's operational and administrative functions.
2. A Chief Financial Officer shall be appointed to manage the club's financial affairs.
3. An experienced Public Relations Officer (PRO) shall be appointed, responsible for handling media relations, social media management, and public relations on behalf of the club.

IX: Medical Staff

A medical team shall be appointed for matches and training sessions, which shall include a licensed physical therapist. These professionals shall hold valid licenses issued by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties, in strict accordance with the requirements and regulations set by the SAFF Medical Committee.

X: Club Project and Support Services

1. A club-specific strategy shall be developed, clearly defining its short-term and long-term objectives and developmental plans.
2. If the club includes youth categories, a dedicated development and educational program shall be implemented for both the youth and women's categories.
3. A club-specific program addressing social responsibility and community involvement shall be developed.
4. Adequate equipment for both players and coaches shall be made available during training and matches.
5. Adequate transportation options for players shall be made available.
6. Training aids and modern technologies shall be made available to enhance the training process.



XI: Interpretation of the Regulation

The Department of Youth Teams, Private Clubs, Academies, and Regional Training Centers shall have the jurisdiction to interpret the provisions outlined in this Regulation. It shall possess the authority to take whatever action it deems fit in situations not explicitly covered by this Regulation, in collaboration with the relevant committees and departments of SAFF.

XII: The Work Mechanism of Coaching Teams for the 2023/2024 Sports Season

First: The Purpose of Regulation

1. To streamline the activities of Saudi and non-Saudi coaches across all clubs.
2. To establish a regulatory framework that is flexible and can be adjusted in response to changing circumstances.
3. To coordinate with the Professional League Association.
4. To coordinate with the First Division Yelo League Association.
5. To coordinate with the Third Division League Association.

Second: The Responsible Authority

1. The SAFF Technical Committee

Third: Criteria

The SAFF-approved coaching licenses for coaches, regardless of their technical specialization, engaged in competitions, are as follows:

A – Schedule 1: Licensing Criteria for Coaches of Youth Categories Across All Private Clubs and Academies.

B - Schedule 2: Licensing Criteria for First Team Coaches of 2DL, 3DL, 4DL, and Private Clubs.

C - Schedule 3: Licensing Criteria for Roshn Saudi League (RSL) First Team Coaches.

D - Schedule 4: Licensing Criteria for FDL First Team Coaches.

E - Schedule 5: Licensing Criteria for Saudi Reserve League (SRL) Coaches.



F - Schedule 6: Licensing Criteria for Futsal Coaches.

G - Schedule 7: Licensing Criteria for Women's Premier League Coaches.

H - Schedule 8: Licensing Criteria for Women's First Division League Coaches.

Fourth: Procedure for Applying for a Professional Coaching License and its Regulations

1. Clubs shall submit the data of their coaches in all technical specializations via the website (my Saff).
2. Applications shall be reviewed, and decisions regarding the eligibility of coaches to work shall be made based on the criteria outlined in Article XII. All requirements of the electronic application form shall be fulfilled.
3. coaches, regardless of their coaching role, shall be present with the team during all official football matches, across all levels and divisions. They shall be officially registered in (my Saff) by the club and submit an application for the professional coaching card. Failure to obtain this card shall result in the prohibition of their employment with clubs, academies, or private clubs. They shall not be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench or enter the players' dressing room before matches or during halftime.
4. The coaching license shall be valid for one sports season.
5. The loaning of coaches between clubs during the same sports season shall not be permitted.
6. If the contractual relationship between the club and a non-Saudi coach, regardless of their coaching role, terminates during the sports season, the coach shall be prohibited from entering into a contract with any club in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia until the conclusion of the entire sports season across all competitions.
7. If the contractual relationship between the club and a Saudi coach, regardless of their coaching role, terminates during the sports season, the Saudi coach shall be permitted to enter into a contract with any club within the Kingdom during the same sports season, but this shall be limited to a single occurrence, provided that this contract shall not pertain to the same competition in which they coached during the



initial instance within the same season. There shall be an exemption for coaches working with teams in the Roshn Professional League, Yelo League (First Division), and Second Division League, provided always that this shall occur only once during the same sports season.

8. In the event of the dismissal of the coaching staff, whether Saudi or non-Saudi, the club shall be afforded the opportunity to appoint a temporary replacement for a specified number of matches, as determined by the Technical Committee, in line with the prevailing circumstances at that time. This arrangement shall remain in effect until a new coaching staff is hired, adhering to the criteria and requirements outlined in Article XII (3). To initiate this process, the club shall submit a request via the website (MY SAFF).
9. All requirements for coaching licenses and club work experience shall be annually updated to reflect the latest developments.
10. A coach shall meet the minimum educational requirements for coaching as outlined by the Asian Football Confederation in the AFC Competitions Operations Manual 2023, with an exception for those who have already commenced the educational program for the required coaching license through a recognized entity approved by the Asian Football Confederation.
11. Should any Saudi or non-Saudi coach violate the directives provided in this circular, the matter shall be referred to the relevant authority within SAFF for legal actions in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.
12. Any new cases or emerging situations shall be forwarded by the club to the Technical Committee for examination and resolution.

XIII: Endorsement and Effectiveness

1. Any case not explicitly addressed herein shall be subject to the discretionary authority of the SAFF Board of Directors of.



2. This regulation has been officially endorsed by the Board of Directors, in accordance with Resolution No. (R. 1/45) dated 7 Safar 1445H, corresponding to August 23, 2023.
3. This regulation shall be effective as at the date of its endorsement.



**Schedule (1) Licensing Criteria for Coaches of Youth Categories Across All
Private Clubs and Academies for the Sports Season 2023/2024**

No.	Coaching Designation	U-15 & U-13	U-17	U-19	Private Academies & Clubs
1	Manager	AFC A or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention			
2	Coach	AFC B or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention			
3	Assistant Coach	AFC C or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention			
4	Fitness Coach	Fitness coaching certification			
5	Goalkeeper Coach	Goalkeeper coaching certification			
6	Video Analyst	Video analysis certification			

Note: Conditions specified in the Youth Support Program for clubs benefiting from the program shall be considered.



Schedule (2) Licensing Criteria for First Team Coaches of 2DL, 3DL, 4DL, and Private Clubs for the Sports Season 2023/2024

No.	Coaching Designation	Certification
1	Coach	AFC A or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention
2	Assistant Coach	AFC B or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention
3	Fitness Coach	Fitness coaching certification
4	Goalkeeper Coach	Goalkeeper coaching certification
5	Video Analyst	Video analysis certification

Note: Coaches with the designation "Coach" shall be allowed to work under an AFC B license, provided they shall present a certificate of experience as a first team coach of not less than (5) years. Starting from the upcoming 2024/2025 season, an AFC A diploma shall be a requirement for coaches. Those holding an AFC B diploma shall not be permitted to work as coaches.



**Schedule (3) Licensing Criteria for Roshn Saudi League (RSL) First Team
Coaches for the Sports Season 2023/2024**

No.	Coaching Designation	Certification
1	Coach	AFC Pro or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention
2	Assistant Coach	AFC A or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention
3	Fitness Coach	Fitness coaching certification
4	Goalkeeper Coach	Goalkeeper coaching certification
5	Video Analyst	Video analysis certification
6	Head of Youth Development	AFC A or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention
7	Manager	AFC A or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention

Note: The coaching positions "Head of Youth Development" and "Manager" are a requirement for an AFC license to participate in the AFC Champions League. Additionally, the requirement for the fitness coach is AFC Fitness L2, and for the goalkeeper coach is AFC Goalkeeping A.



**Schedule (4) Licensing Criteria for FDL First Team Coaches for the Sports
Season 2023/2024**

No.	Coaching Designation	Certification
1	Coach	AFC Pro
2	Assistant Coach	AFC A
3	Fitness Coach	Fitness coaching certification
4	Goalkeeper Coach	Goalkeeper coaching certification
5	Video Analyst	Video analysis certification

Important Note: Holders of an AFC B license shall be permitted to work as assistant coaches, provided they have a certificate of previous first team work experience of not less than (5) years. Starting from the upcoming 2024/2025 season, an AFC A diploma shall be a requirement for assistant coaches. Those holding an AFC B diploma shall not be permitted to work as assistant coaches.



**Schedule (5) Licensing Criteria for Saudi Reserve League (SRL) Coaches for the
Sports Season 2023/2024**

No.	Coaching Designation	Certification
1	Coach	AFC Pro or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention
2	Assistant Coach	AFC A or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention
3	Fitness Coach	Fitness coaching certification
4	Goalkeeper Coach	Goalkeeper coaching certification
5	Video Analyst	Video analysis certification

Note: Holders of an AFC A diploma shall be permitted to work as coaches, provided they have a certificate of previous first team work experience of not less than (5) years.



**Schedule (6) Licensing Criteria for Futsal Coaches for the Sports Season
2023/2024**

No.	Coaching Designation	Certification
1	Coach	AFC Level 1 or FIFA certificate
2	Assistant Coach	AFC Level 1 or FIFA certificate
3	Fitness Coach	AFC Level 1 or FIFA certificate
4	Goalkeeper Coach	AFC Level 1 or FIFA certificate
5	Video Analyst	Video analysis certification

Important Note: Starting from the 2025/2026 season, the requirement for coaches shall be the AFC Level 2 Certificate, and those holding the AFC Level 1 Certificate shall not be permitted to work as coaches.



**Schedule (7) Licensing Criteria for Women's Premier League Coaches for the
Sports Season 2023/2024**

No.	Coaching Designation	Certification
1	Coach	AFC A or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention
2	Assistant Coach	AFC B or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention
3	Fitness Coach	Fitness coaching certification
4	Goalkeeper Coach	Goalkeeper coaching certification
5	Video Analyst	Video analysis certification

Important Note: Starting from the 2024/2025 season, the requirement for coaches shall be an AFC Pro diploma or an AFC A diploma with (5) years' work experience. However, an AFC Pro diploma shall become mandatory for coaches starting from the 2025/2026 season.



Schedule (8) Licensing Criteria for Women's First Division League Coaches for the Sports Season 2023/2024

No.	Coaching Designation	Certification
1	Coach	AFC A or AFC B with 5 years' experience or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention
2	Assistant Coach	AFC B or equivalent as per AFC Coaching Convention
3	Fitness Coach	Fitness coaching certification
4	Goalkeeper Coach	Goalkeeper coaching certification
5	Video Analyst	Video analysis certification

Important Note: An AFC A diploma shall become mandatory for coaches starting from the 2025/2026 season.



Schedule (9) Football Field Dimensions According to Football Regulations

-	Limits	Touchline	Goal Line
Standard Dimensions	Min	100 yards (90 meters)	50 yards (45 meters)
	Max	130 yards (120 meters)	100 yards (90 meters)
International Matches	Min	110 yards (100 meters)	70 yards (64 meters)
	Max	120 yards (110 meters)	80 yards (75 meters)
Local Fields	Applicable	115 yards (105 meters)	73 yards (68 meters)



Schedule (10) Club Declaration Form

Electronic System Club Account Creation Form

Club Name	
Manager	
Mobile Number	
Email <i>*A Club Email Designated for Manager*</i>	

1. The club is fully responsible for any use of the electronic system by the team manager and for any data entered. The team manager must securely store the username and password to prevent the use of the club's account by anyone else.
2. In the event of changing the team manager, the club must immediately inform the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, providing the details of the new team manager.

Club CEO	
Name:	
Signature:	
Stamp:	