



National Club Licensing Regulations

2026

Football Australia Limited
(ACN 106 478 068)

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1. Definitions and Interpretation

Definitions

1.1 In these Regulations:

Accounting Policies means the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices adopted by an entity in preparing and presenting its financial statements.

ACL Elite means the AFC Champions League Elite.

ACL Two means the AFC Champions League Two.

AFC means the Asian Football Confederation.

AFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook means the handbook issued by the AFC which provides operational and technical guidance in relation to the financial Criteria in these Regulations. It is a compilation of explanations and templates to support the Licence Applicant in complying with the financial Criteria.

AFC Club Licensing Quality Standard means the document issued by the AFC which defines the minimum requirements that a Licenser must comply with in order to operate the club licensing system.

AFC Club Licensing Regulations means the regulations consisting of five categories of Criteria and a Core Process produced by the AFC.

AFC Club Competition means ACL Elite, ACL Two and / or AWCL.

AFC Licensing Season means the period for which a Licence Applicant has applied for and / or been granted an AFC Men or AFC Women Licence. It starts the day following the deadline for submission of the List of Licensing Decisions by the Licensor to the AFC and lasts until the same deadline the following year.

AFC List of Licensing Decisions means the list submitted by the Licensor to the AFC containing, among other things, information about the Licence Applicants that have undergone the licensing process and been granted or refused a Licence by the national decision-making bodies in the format established and communicated by the AFC General Secretariat.

AFC Men's Club Licensing Framework means the five categories of Criteria and a Core Process promulgated by FA for Clubs to be licensed each season to participate in an AFC Men's Club Competition.

AFC Stadium Regulations means the regulations that set out the minimum requirements for a Stadium to be eligible to host matches in AFC competitions.

AFC Women's Club Licensing Framework means the five categories of Criteria and a Core Process promulgated by FA for Clubs to be licensed each season to participate in the AWCL.

A-League Men means the senior men's national competition staged in Australia and New Zealand by APL, known as the A-League Men competition or such other name as notified by APL from time to time.

A-League Men Club Licensing Framework means the five categories of Criteria and a Core Process promulgated by FA for Clubs to be licensed each season to participate in the A-League Men.

A-League Women means the senior women's national competition staged in Australia and New Zealand by APL, known as the A-League Women competition or such other name as notified by APL from time to time.

A-League Women Club Licensing Framework means the five categories of Criteria and a Core Process promulgated by FA for Clubs to be licensed each season to participate in the A-League Women.

Annual Financial Statements means a complete set of financial statements prepared as at the Statutory Closing Date, normally including a balance sheet, profit and loss account, a statement of cash flows and those notes, other statements and explanatory material that are an integral part of the financial statements.

Associate means an entity, including an unincorporated entity such as a partnership, over which the investor has Significant Influence and that, is neither a Subsidiary nor an interest in a Joint Venture.

Assessment Process means the procedures established and utilised by the Licensing Administration for the review and analysis of information and documentation submitted by the Licence Applicants in order to verify compliance with the mandatory Criteria requirements. For further details, see Core Process.

Audit means an official inspection of an organisation's accounts. The objective of an Audit of financial statements is to enable the auditor to express an opinion whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an identified financial reporting framework. The phrases used to express the auditor's opinion are "give a true and fair view" or "present fairly, in all material respects", which are equivalent terms. A similar objective applies to the Audit of financial or other information prepared in accordance with appropriate Criteria. In an Audit engagement, the auditor provides a high, but not absolute, level of assurance that the information subject to Audit is free of Material misstatement. This is expressed positively in the Audit report as reasonable assurance. The term "Audited" shall be interpreted accordingly.

Auckland FC means the football club currently known as "Auckland FC" operated by Black Knight Football Club LP (NZBN 9429051697822).

Australian Professional Leagues or **APL** means Australian Professional Leagues Company Pty Ltd (ACN 646 799 199) being the competition administrator for the A-Leagues, under licence from Football Australia.

AWCL means the AFC Women's Champions League.

Budget means the schedules containing an entity's Future Financial Information, based on management's assumptions about events that may occur in the future and possible actions by an entity.

CLAS or Club Licensing Administration System means the IT system developed by the AFC for the purpose of gathering information from Licence Applicants / Licensees

and for sharing information with Licensors concerning their affiliated Clubs, within the scope of the implementation, assessment and enforcement of these Regulations.

Club means a legal entity fully registered with Football Australia in accordance with Football Australia's National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations and Wellington Phoenix FC and Auckland FC.

Club Licensing Breach means a breach of these Regulations by a Licence Applicant or Licensee.

Club Licensing Criteria or **Criteria** means the requirements applicable to the grant of Licences to Licence Applicants, as set out in these Regulations, which are divided into five categories (sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal and financial).

Club Licensing Disciplinary Notice means the notice issued to a Licence Applicant or Licensee under clause 13.

Club Licensing Framework means the AFC Club Licensing Framework and the FA Club Licensing Framework.

Club Licensing Sanction means a sanction imposed on a Licence Applicant or Licensee for a Club Licensing Breach.

Club Licensing System means the set of principles, rules, procedures and standards established and implemented by AFC or FA, as applicable, for the licensing of Clubs.

Consolidated Financial Statement(s) means the financial statements of a Group presented as those of a single economic entity.

Control means the power to conduct the activities of an entity and to direct its financial, operating and/or sporting policies in any manner which may affect the outcomes of such activities, whether by means of share ownership, voting power, constitutional documents (e.g. statutes), agreement and/or otherwise. The terms "Controlled" and "Controlling" shall be interpreted accordingly.

Core Process means the minimum requirements that the Licensor has put in place for verification of compliance with the Criteria as basis for the issuance of a Licence to an Applicant for an AFC Club Competition or an FA Club Competition as set out in Annexure 1 and Annexure 3.

Disqualifying Conditions means the disqualifying conditions outlined in the Fit and Proper Person Test of the Unitholders Agreement for the Australian Professional Leagues Trust (**UHA**), which is replicated in Annexure 6 and applies to a Club irrespective of whether the director (s) and/or shareholder(s) are a unitholder as defined in the UHA.

Event or Condition of Major Economic Importance means an Event or Condition that is considered Material to the financial statements of the Reporting Entity and would require a different (adverse) presentation of the results of the operations, financial position and net assets of the Reporting Entity if it had occurred during the preceding Financial Year or Interim Period.

FA Appeals and Entry Control Body or **FA A&ECB** means the FA Appeals and Entry Control Body.

FA Club Competition means any competition, tournament or league registered with FA in accordance with the NRSTRs, including but not limited to, pre-season, regular season, finals series and any post-season tournament or knockout cup competition.

FA Club Licensing Framework means the five categories of Criteria and a Core Process promulgated by FA (and the MFs, where applicable) for Clubs to be licensed each season to participate in a FA Club Competition, including, but not limited to, the A-League Men Club Licensing Framework, the A-League Women Club Licensing Framework, the NPL Men Club Licensing Framework and the NPL Women Club Licensing Framework.

FA Constitution means the constitution of FA.

FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or **FA D&EC** means the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

FA First Instance Body or **FA FIB** means the body appointed by FA that initially determines whether an AFC Men, AFC Women, A-League Men or A-League Women Licence should be granted and whether an AFC Men, AFC Women, A-League Men or A-League Women Licence should be withdrawn.

FA Licensing Season means the period for which a Licence Applicant has applied for / been granted an A-League Men, A-League Women, NPL Men or NPL Women Licence. It starts the day following the deadline for appeal and lasts until the same deadline the following year.

FA List of Licensing Decisions means the list submitted by the Licensor to the Football Australia Board and the APL Board containing, among other things, information about the Licence Applicants that have undergone the licensing process and been granted or refused a Licence by the national decision-making bodies in the format established and communicated by FA's Licensing Administration.

FA Statutes means the rules and regulations promulgated by FA from time to time, including but not limited to, the FA Constitution, Grievance Procedure By-Law, Judicial Bodies By-Law, National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations, and these Regulations.

FIB Notice means the notice provided to the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee by the First Instance Body and which must include the details of the Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable), the particulars of the Club Licensing Breaches, and any other factors that the First Instance Body considers relevant to the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

First Instance Body or **FIB** means the FA First Instance Body and / or the MF First Instance Body (as applicable).

Football Australia or **FA** means Football Australia Limited (ACN 106 478 068).

Football Australia Club Licensing Manual means the document detailing the documentation and information required be submitted by Clubs by the prescribed deadlines in order to comply with these Regulations.

Financial Year means the annual financial reporting period ending on 30 June 2025

Future Financial Information means the information about the prospective financial effects of future events and possible actions on the entity concerned.

Going Concern means the “going concern” concept, or assumption, which is an accountancy term that describes an entity which can continue operating without the significant threat of liquidation, and which can therefore continue in operation for the foreseeable future. A Reporting Entity is normally viewed as a Going Concern. It is assumed that the Reporting Entity has neither the intention nor the necessity of liquidation, ceasing trading nor seeking protection from creditors pursuant to laws or regulations.

Group means a Parent and all its subsidiaries.

Grievance Procedure By-Law means the grievance procedure by-law promulgated by the Directors in accordance with the FA Constitution.

Historic Financial Information means information about the financial effects of past events on the entity concerned. Historic Financial Information is in respect of the financial performance and position prior to the licensing decision.

Interim Financial Statements means a financial report containing either a complete set of financial statements or a set of condensed financial statements for an Interim Period.

Interim Period means a financial reporting period shorter than a Financial Year. It does not necessarily have to be a six-month period.

Joint Venture means a contractual arrangement whereby two or more parties undertake an economic activity that is subject to joint Control.

Judicial Bodies By-Law means the judicial bodies by-law promulgated by the Directors in accordance with the FA Constitution.

Licence means the certificate granted by the Licensor confirming fulfilment of all mandatory Club Licensing Criteria by the Licence Applicant as part of the admission procedure for entering and remaining eligible to participate in AFC Club Competitions and / or specified FA Club Competitions (as applicable).

Licence Applicant means the legal entity fully and solely responsible for the football team participating in national and international club competitions which applies for a Licence.

Licensee means the Licence Applicant that has been granted a Licence by its Licensor.

Licensing Administration means the staff within the Licensor that deals with Club Licensing matters.

Licensing Cycle means the period designated by the Licensor for the implementation and completion of the Core Process.

Licensing Manager means the member of the Licensing Administration who is primarily responsible for the management and administration of Club Licensing matters, and for reporting to and the support of the First Instance Body.

Licensing Season means AFC Licensing Season and / or the FA Licensing Season (as applicable).

Licensor means the body that operates the Club Licensing System and grants the Licences in accordance with these Regulations. For these Regulations, the body is Football Australia or the Member Federation. Accordingly, the terms "Licensor", "Football Australia", "FA", "Member Federation" and "MF" are used interchangeably, as the context requires, throughout these Regulations.

Material or Materiality means omissions or misstatements of items or information are Material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial information submitted by the Licence Applicant / Licensee. Materiality depends on the size and nature of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances or context. The size or nature of the item or information, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.

Member Association means a member association of the AFC and for the purposes of these Regulations means Football Australia.

Member Federation means a State, Territory or regional federation or association that is a member of FA from time to time.

MF First Instance Body means the body appointed by a Member Federation that initially determines whether an NPL Men or NPL Women Licence should be granted and whether an NPL Men or NPL Women Licence should be withdrawn.

MF List of Licensing Decisions means the list submitted by the Licensor to the relevant Member Federation Board and FA's Licensing Administration containing, among other things, information about the Licence Applicants that have undergone the licensing process and been granted or refused a Licence by the decision-making bodies in the format established and communicated by FA's Licensing Administration.

Minimum Sanction means the minimum sanction prescribed in the Table of Minimum Sanctions for certain Club Licensing Breaches.

National Premier Leagues or **NPL** means the football competitions conducted in Australia under the auspices or control of FA and its Member Federations known as the National Premier Leagues.

NPL Men means the Member Federation's senior men's NPL competition.

NPL Men Club Licensing Framework means the five categories of Criteria and a Core Process promulgated by FA and the applicable MF for Clubs to be licensed each season to participate in the NPL Men.

NPL Women means the Member Federation's senior women's NPL competition.

NPL Women Club Licensing Framework means the five categories of Criteria and a Core Process promulgated by FA and the applicable MF for Clubs to be licensed each season to participate in the NPL Women.

Parent means an entity that has one or more subsidiaries.

Registered Member means a member (Constituent) of Football Australia under the FA Constitution.

Regulations means these Football Australia National Club Licensing Regulations.

Reporting Entity / Entities means a Registered Member and / or football company or Group of entities or some other combination of entities which is included in the reporting perimeter, and which must provide the Licensor with information for Club Licensing purposes.

Review means the examination of financial information. The objective of an engagement to review financial information is to enable an auditor to express a conclusion whether, on the basis of the Review, anything has come to the auditor's attention that causes the auditor to believe that the financial information is not prepared, in all Material respects, in accordance with an identified financial reporting framework. A Review, in contrast to an Audit, is not designed to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial information is free from Material misstatement. A Review consists of making inquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A Review may bring significant matters affecting the financial information to the auditor's attention, but it does not provide the evidence that would be required for an Audit.

Season to be Licensed means the AFC or FA Club Competition season (whichever is applicable) for which the Licence Applicant has applied for the Licence, e.g. 1 June – 31 May.

Significant Change means an event that is considered Material to the documentation previously submitted to the Licensor and that would require a different presentation if it had occurred prior to the submission of the licensing documentation.

Significant Influence means the power to participate in the financial, operating and/or sporting policies of an entity whether by means of share ownership, voting power, constitutional documents (e.g. statutes), agreement and/or otherwise, but without having Control over that entity either on its own or as part of a Joint Venture. Examples include a party:

- (a) holding, directly or indirectly, between 20% and 50% of the shareholders' or members' voting rights in an entity;
- (b) having the ability to influence the appointment or removal of members charged with the governance of an entity (e.g. any administrative, management or supervisory bodies of an entity);
- (c) being a minority shareholder or a member of the entity and alone, pursuant to an agreement entered into with other shareholders or members of the entity or by any other means, being able to exercise any Significant Influence; and/or
- (d) providing in one reporting period - either alone or in aggregate with parties under the same ultimate controlling party or government (excluding the AFC, its own AFC Member Association and any affiliated league) - 30% or more of the entity's total revenue for that reporting period.

Stadium means any stadium at which a match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:

- (a) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid accreditation card or ticket is required in order to gain access) of a stadium facility inside the outer stadium

perimeter fence and (on matchdays and any day on which any official training takes place within the stadium) the aerial space above such stadium premises;

- (b) parking facilities;
- (c) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village);
- (d) concession areas;
- (e) commercial display areas;
- (f) buildings;
- (g) the field of play;
- (h) the media tribune;
- (i) any broadcast compound;
- (j) the stadium media centre;
- (k) the press conference room;
- (l) the mixed zone;
- (m) any stands; and
- (n) any areas beneath the stands.

Statutory Closing Date means the annual accounting reference date of the Reporting Entity.

Subsequent Events means events or conditions occurring after the licensing decision.

Subsidiary means an entity, including an unincorporated entity such as a partnership that is Controlled by another entity (known as the Parent). Control may be gained by share ownership (e.g. more than 50% ownership / voting rights) or contractual arrangements (e.g. statutes or agreements).

Supplementary Information means financial information to be submitted to the Licensor in addition to the financial statements if the minimum requirements for disclosure and accounting are not met. The Supplementary Information must be prepared on a basis of accounting, and Accounting Policies, consistent with the financial statements. Financial information must be extracted from sources consistent with those used for the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements. Where appropriate, disclosures in the Supplementary Information must agree with, or be reconciled to, the relevant disclosures in the financial statements.

Table of Minimum Sanctions means the table of Minimum Sanctions for certain Club Licensing Breaches as set out in Annexure 5: Table of Minimum Sanctions.

Training Facilities means the venue(s) at which a Club's registered players undertake football training and / or youth development activities on a regular basis.

Wellington Phoenix FC means the football club currently known as "Wellington Phoenix FC" operated by Welnix LP (No. 2553524).

Interpretation

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

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice-versa;
- (c) references to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation; and
- (d) all defined terms, unless otherwise stated herein, shall bear the same meaning as ascribed to them in the FA Statutes.

2. Introduction, Scope of Application and Objectives

Introduction

2.1 These Regulations regulate the processes and minimum standards by which Clubs will be assessed on an annual basis in order to remain eligible for and to participate in a particular FA Club Competition(s) and / or AFC Club Competition(s).

2.2 These Regulations form part of the FA Statutes.

2.3 These Regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties involved in the licensing process and define in particular:

- (a) the minimum requirements to be fulfilled by the Licensor in order to act as a Licensor for its Clubs, as well as the minimum procedures to be followed by the Licensor in the assessment of the Club Licensing Criteria;
- (b) the Licence Applicant and the Licence required to remain eligible for and to participate in the relevant FA Club Competition(s) and to enter the relevant AFC Club Competition(s); and
- (c) the minimum sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal and financial Criteria to be fulfilled by a Club in order to be granted a Licence by FA as part of the admission procedure to remain eligible for and to participate in a FA Club Competition and to enter the relevant AFC Club Competitions.

Scope of Application and Delegation for Management

2.4 These Regulations outline a tiered Club Licensing Framework that will manage the ongoing participation of Clubs in competitions within the FA competition pyramid through a combination of:

- (a) sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal and financial Criteria;
- (b) Core Processes;
- (c) Licensing Administrations; and
- (d) decision-making bodies and procedures.

For Clubs to remain eligible for and to participate in a domestic competition or to enter an international club competition, the Clubs will be required to comply with a specific framework appropriate to each competition. This is outlined as follows:

Men's Club Licensing			
<i>Competition</i>	<i>Applicable Framework</i>	<i>Licensor</i>	<i>Licence</i>
ACL Elite and ACL Two	AFC Men's Club Licensing Framework	Football Australia	AFC Men Licence
A-League Men	A-League Men Club Licensing Framework	Football Australia	A-League Men Licence
NPL Men	NPL Men Club Licensing Framework	Member Federation	NPL Men Licence

Women's Club Licensing			
<i>Competition</i>	<i>Applicable Framework</i>	<i>Licensor</i>	<i>Licence</i>
AWCL	AFC Women's Club Licensing Framework	Football Australia	AFC Women Licence
A-League Women	A-League Women Club Licensing Framework	Football Australia	A-League Women Licence
NPL Women	NPL Women Club Licensing Framework	Member Federation	NPL Women Licence

2.5 Subject to 2.5(a) below, for the NPL Men and NPL Women, FA may delegate certain functions, rights and obligations to Member Federations regarding the control and management of the Regulations within its designated jurisdiction.

- (a) If FA delegates any functions, rights and obligations to Member Federations, such control and management must be conducted in accordance with these Regulations and any other such conditions prescribed by FA to the Member Federation in FA's sole and absolute discretion.
- (b) Where a Member Federation proposes to supplement these Regulations with specific rules addressing the delegation of rights by FA (**Supplementary Regulations**), the Member Federation must obtain FA's prior written approval (which may be granted or withheld in FA's sole and absolute discretion) prior to issuing any Supplementary Regulations. In the event of inconsistency between any Supplementary Regulations and these Regulations, these Regulations prevail.
- (c) FA retains the right to issue directions to Member Federations and Clubs regarding the control and management of the FA Club Licensing Framework in respect to the NPL Men and NPL Women, and such directions have immediate effect unless expressed otherwise.

Objectives

2.6 These Regulations aim to:

- (a) safeguard the credibility and integrity of FA Club Competitions and AFC Club Competitions;
- (b) allow the development of benchmarking of Clubs in sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal and financial related Criteria within Australia by FA and throughout Asia by the AFC;
- (c) continuously improve the standard of all aspects of football in Australia and Asia and, in particular, to give priority to the training and care of young players in every Club;
- (d) ensure that Clubs have an adequate level of management;
- (e) improve the financial capability of Clubs, increasing their transparency and credibility, and placing the necessary importance on the protection of creditors and to ensure that Clubs settle their liabilities with employees, social / tax authorities and other Clubs punctually; and
- (f) improve Clubs' sporting infrastructure to provide the various stakeholders with well-equipped and safe Stadiums and facilities.

2.7 These Regulations form a progressive Club Licensing Framework that has been designed to deliver continual improvement in its Clubs.

2.8 FA reserves the right to review and adjust and Criteria within these Regulations from time to time to ensure the Club Licensing System and Clubs continue to develop over time.

3. Licence

3.1 A Licence is a certificate granted by the Licensor confirming fulfilment of all mandatory Club Licensing Criteria by the Licence Applicant to:

- (a) remain eligible to participate in the A-League Men and A-League Women competitions; or
- (b) as part of the admission procedure for participating in NPL Men and NPL Women competitions; or
- (c) as part of the admission procedure for entering AFC Club Competitions.

3.2 The following licences are awarded under the FA Club Licensing System:

- (a) AFC Men Licence.
- (b) AFC Women Licence.
- (c) A-League Men Licence.
- (d) A-League Women Licence.
- (e) NPL Men Licence.
- (f) NPL Women Licence.

- 3.3 The Licensor must issue an invitation to the Clubs to apply for a Licence punctually and in writing. The Licensor must only issue an invitation to a Club that is or may be otherwise eligible to participate in the FA Club Competitions and / or the AFC Club Competitions (as applicable).
- 3.4 The Licence Applicant must submit a written application to the Licensor. In this application, the Club must, in particular, declare that it will fulfil the obligations of the Club Licensing System.
- 3.5 With respect to the A-League Men and A-League Women, only Clubs which fulfil the Criteria set out in the Regulations within the deadlines defined by the Licensor may be granted a Licence to remain eligible to participate in the applicable FA Club Competition for the Season to be Licensed.
- 3.6 With respect to the AFC Club Competitions, Clubs that qualify for these competitions on sporting merit must obtain a Licence issued by the Licensor. Only Clubs which:
 - (a) fulfil the applicable Criteria set out in the Regulations within the deadlines defined by the Licensor and AFC; and
 - (b) are registered with a Member Association,may be granted a Licence to enter AFC Club Competitions for the Season to be Licensed.
- 3.7 With respect to the NPL Men and NPL Women, only Clubs which fulfil the Criteria set out in the Regulations within the deadlines defined by the Licensor may be granted a Licence to participate in the NPL Men or NPL Women competition for the Season to be Licensed, and participation may be subject to the fulfilment of other participation requirements as mandated by the Member Federation, including qualification on the basis of sporting results (if applicable).
- 3.8 A Licence expires without prior notice at the end of the season for which it was issued.
- 3.9 A Licence cannot be transferred.

Withdrawal of a Licence

- 3.10 A Licence to enter and remain eligible to participate in specified FA Club Competitions may be withdrawn by the decision-making bodies if:
 - (a) for any reason a Licensee becomes insolvent and enters into liquidation during the season in accordance with the applicable national law (where a Licensee becomes insolvent but enters administration during the season, for so long as the purpose of the administration is to rescue the Club and its business, the Licence should not be withdrawn);
 - (b) any of the conditions for the issuing of a Licence are not satisfied; or
 - (c) the Licensee violates any of its obligations under these Regulations.
- 3.11 A Licence to enter and remain eligible to participate in specified AFC Club Competitions may be withdrawn by the AFC or the Licensor's decision-making bodies if:
 - (a) any of the conditions for the issuing of a Licence are not satisfied; or

- (b) the Licensee violates any of its obligations under these Regulations and / or the AFC Club Licensing Regulations (as applicable).

3.12 As soon as a Licence withdrawal is envisaged, the Licensor must inform the applicable bodies, as outlined below:

- (a) the AFC General Secretariat and the Australian Professional Leagues (**APL**) for the withdrawal of an AFC Men or AFC Women Licence;
- (b) the Australian Professional Leagues for the withdrawal of an A-League Men or A-League Women Licence;
- (c) FA's Licensing Administration for the withdrawal of a NPL Men or NPL Women Licence.

3.13 If a Club has its Licence withdrawn, a decision concerning the withdrawal of the Club from a current:

- (a) FA Club Competition, must be made by the FA Appeals and Entry Control Body; or
- (b) AFC Club Competition, must be made by the AFC Entry Control Body. Such decisions shall be made in accordance with the Procedural Rules Governing the AFC Entry Control Body.

3.14 FA may sanction a Club or remove a Club from future FA Club Competitions in accordance with the applicable FA Statutes.

Admission to AFC Competitions

- 3.15 The Licence Applicant must further fulfil all the requirements according to the relevant AFC Club Competitions Regulations to be admitted to the AFC Club Competition.
- 3.16 The admission process falls under the sole jurisdiction of AFC and its competent bodies (Competitions Committee, etc.).
- 3.17 The competent bodies of AFC make the final decision regarding the admission of a Club to participate in any AFC Club Competition.

4. Core Process

- 4.1 The Core Process is the procedure and minimum requirements established by the Licensor for the verification of Criteria outlined in the Regulations as the basis for the awarding or refusal of a Licence to a Licence Applicant / Licensee.
- 4.2 The Core Process consists of the following key steps:
 - (a) invitation to the Licence Applicants to submit their application for a Licence;
 - (b) distribution of the licensing documentation and deadlines to the Licence Applicants;
 - (c) return of the licensing documentation from the Licence Applicants to the Licensor;

- (d) assessment of the documentation by the Licensing Administration, including visits to and / or audits of the Licence Applicants;
- (e) assessment and decisions by the decision-making bodies;
- (f) communication of the licensing decisions, in writing, to the Licence Applicants;
- (g) communication of any applicable sanctions, in writing, to the Licence Applicants;
- (h) submission of the applicable licensing decisions to the following bodies:
 - (i) the AFC List of Licensing Decisions to the AFC Licensing Administration, for international competitions and the men's and women's top division national competition;
 - (ii) the FA List of Licensing Decisions to the FA Board for national and international club competitions and, for the applicable competitions, the APL Board; and
 - (iii) the MF List of Licensing Decisions to the MF Board and FA's Licensing Administration for the NPL Men and NPL Women competitions; and
- (i) monitoring of Licensees throughout the Licensing Season.

4.3 The deadlines for the above key steps shall be clearly defined and communicated in writing to the Licence Applicants by the Licenser. These deadlines for the AFC Men, AFC Women, A-League Men and A-League Women Licences are outlined in Annexure 1: AFC & A-League Men Core Process Timeline 2026 and Annexure 3: AFC & A-League Women Core Process Timeline 2026.

4.4 The Member Federation must submit the Core Process for the NPL Men and NPL Women Licences to FA's Licensing Administration for review and approval.

4.5 The Assessment Process shall be comprised of:

- (a) submission and self-certification by the Licence Applicant; and
- (b) a review, assessment and recommendation by the Licensing Administration; and
- (c) any actions, audit, advice or assessment conducted or provided by any external party appointed by the Licensing Administration.

5. Licensor

- 5.1 The Licensor governs the Club Licensing System, appoints the licensing bodies and determines the necessary processes.
- 5.2 The Licensor must apply the Club Licensing system according to the minimum requirements set by AFC (c.f. Article 10.1 (n) of the AFC Statutes) and/or FA, as applicable.
- 5.3 FA is the Licensor for the AFC Club Competitions, A-League Men and A-League Women.
- 5.4 The Member Federation is the Licensor for the NPL Men and NPL Women in its designated jurisdiction.

5.5 The Licensor and Licence Applicants are obliged to use CLAS for the governance and operation of the Club Licensing System, unless otherwise expressly permitted by AFC or FA, as applicable.

5.6 With respect to the AFC Club Competitions, FA must ensure that all applicable provisions defined in the AFC Club Licensing Regulations are integrated into these Regulations, which are submitted to the AFC General Secretariat for accreditation according to the AFC Club Licensing Regulations.

5.7 In particular, the Licensor must:

- (a) ensure equal treatment of all Licence Applicants during the Core Process and guarantee the Licence Applicant full confidentiality with regard to all information provided by the Licence Applicant during the licensing process. Anyone involved in the licensing process or appointed by the Licensor must be bound by confidentiality agreements before starting their tasks;
- (b) define the assessment procedures, except those defined under AFC Club Licensing Regulations for which specific assessment processes must be followed as set out therein;
- (c) assess the documentation submitted by the Licence Applicants and consider whether this is appropriate;
- (d) strictly follow the core process;
- (e) determine whether each criterion has been met and what further information, if any, is needed for a Licence to be granted;
- (f) comply with the AFC Club Licensing Quality Standard; and
- (g) comply with all licensing and monitoring requirements to govern participation in its national competitions.

6. Licensing Administration

6.1 FA has established a Licensing Administration, including the appointment of a Licensing Manager who is responsible for managing the Licensing Administration, the tasks of which include:

- (a) preparing, implementing and further developing the Club Licensing System;
- (b) accessing and administering the CLAS to facilitate the Club Licensing System;
- (c) providing training and support for the Licence Applicants in using CLAS to facilitate the Club Licensing System;
- (d) providing administrative support to the decision-making bodies;
- (e) assisting, advising and monitoring the Licensees during the season;
- (f) informing the APL, and AFC where applicable, of any event occurring after the licensing decision that constitutes a Significant Change to the information previously submitted to FA; and
- (g) serving as the contact point for and sharing expertise with the licensing departments of other AFC Member Associations and with AFC.

- 6.2 The Licensor must notify the AFC or FA, as applicable, in writing of the appointment of the Club Licensing Manager, and of any changes to such appointment.
- 6.3 At least one (1) staff member of, or an external financial adviser to, the Licensing Administration must have a financial background and a degree in accountancy / auditing recognised by the appropriate national body (e.g. national trade association), or must have several years' experience in the above matters (a "recognition of competence").
- 6.4 Each Member Federation must establish a Licensing Administration, including the appointment of a Licensing Manager, to:
 - (a) carry out the tasks outlined in 6.1 (a) to (e);
 - (b) to inform FA's Licensing Administration of any event occurring after the licensing decision that constitutes a Significant Change to the information previously submitted to the MF; and
 - (c) serve as the contact point for sharing expertise with the licensing departments of other Member Federations and with FA's Licensing Administration.

7. Licence Applicant and Licensee

Responsibilities of the Licence Applicant

- 7.1 A Licence Applicant shall only be a football Club, i.e. a legal entity fully responsible for a football team participating in national and international competitions which is either a:
 - (a) Registered Member of FA and / or participates in its affiliated league(s); or
 - (b) football company which has a contractual relationship with a Registered Member.
- 7.2 The Licence Applicant must provide the Licensor with:
 - (a) all necessary information and / or relevant documents, which must be accurate and complete, to fully demonstrate that the licensing obligations are fulfilled; and
 - (b) any other document relevant for decision-making by the Licensor, as determined by the Licensor in its sole and absolute discretion.
- 7.3 For the sake of clarity, this includes information on the Reporting Entity / Entities in respect of which sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal and financial information is required to be provided.
- 7.4 Any event occurring after the submission of the licensing documentation to the Licensor representing a Significant Change to the information previously submitted must be promptly notified to the Licensor, especially a change of legal form, legal Group structure or identity.
- 7.5 The Licence Applicant is, in particular, responsible for ensuring the following:
 - (a) that all players are validly registered with FA and, if a professional player, that player has a written contract with the Club (see Article 2 and 5 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and clause 4.1(b) of the FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations);

- (b) that all the compensation paid to the players arising from contractual or legal obligations and all the revenues arising from gate receipts are accounted for in the books of the Club; and
- (c) that the Licensor is provided with all necessary information and / or documents relevant to proving that the licensing obligations are fulfilled, as these obligations relate to the sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal and financial Criteria set out in these Regulations.

7.6 If the Licence Applicant has Control over any Subsidiary, then Consolidated Financial Statements shall be prepared and submitted to the Licensor as if the entities included in the consolidation were a single company.

7.7 If the Licence Applicant is Controlled by a Parent, which may be Controlled by another Parent or which may have Control over any other Subsidiary or may exercise Significant Influence over any other Associate, any transaction with the Parent of the Licence Applicant or any Parent or Subsidiary or Associate of such Parent must be disclosed in the notes to the financial statements to draw attention to the possibility that its financial position and profit or loss may have been affected by the existence of Related parties and by transactions and outstanding balances with such parties.

Licence Applicant and Two-Year Rule – AFC Club Competitions

7.8 To be eligible for AFC Club Competitions, at the start of the Licensing Cycle the Licence Applicant's membership and / or contractual relationship with FA must have lasted at least two (2) consecutive years. Furthermore, the Licence applicant must have participated in official national competitions for at least two (2) consecutive seasons.

7.9 For the purposes of calculating clause 7.8 above, the period will be interrupted by any change during this period to a Licence Applicant's:

- (a) legal form;
- (b) legal Group structure (including a merger with another entity or transfer of football activities to another entity); or
- (c) identity (including headquarters, name or colours),
and which:
- (d) is detrimental to the integrity of a competition; or
- (e) facilitates the Licence Applicant's qualification for a competition on sporting merit or its receipt of a Licence.

8. Decision-Making Bodies***Decision-Making Bodies***

8.1 The decision-making bodies are the First Instance Body and the FA Appeals and Entry Control Body. These bodies are independent of each other and the Licensor. The FA First Instance Body receives administrative support from FA, and the MF First Instance Body receives administrative support from the MF. The FA Appeals and Entry Control Body receives administrative support from FA.

- 8.2 The First Instance Body decides on whether a Licence should be granted to an applicant on the basis of the documents provided by the submission deadline set by the Licensor and on whether a Licence should be withdrawn upon the application of the Licensing Manager.
- 8.3 The FA Appeals and Entry Control Body decides on appeals and makes a final decision on whether a Licence should be granted or withdrawn.

Membership of the Decision-Making Bodies

- 8.4 Members of the FA First Instance Body for the AFC Men Licence, AFC Women Licence, A-League Men Licence and A-League Women Licence decisions are appointed by FA in accordance with the FA Constitution.
- 8.5 Members of the MF First Instance Bodies for the NPL Men Licence and NPL Women Licence decisions are appointed by each Member Federation and are subject to approval by FA.
- 8.6 Members of the FA Appeals and Entry Control Body are appointed by FA in accordance with the FA Constitution, and this body has jurisdiction as the appellate body for all licence appeal decisions.
- 8.7 Members of the decision-making bodies must:
 - (a) act impartially in the discharge of their duties;
 - (b) abstain if there is any doubt as to their independence from the Licence Applicant or if there is a conflict of interest. In this connection, the independence of a member may not be guaranteed if he / her or any member of his / her family (spouse, child, parent or sibling) is a member, shareholder, business partner, sponsor or consultant of the Licence Applicant;
 - (c) not act simultaneously as Licensing Manager;
 - (d) not belong simultaneously to a judicial statutory body of FA or the MF;
 - (e) not belong simultaneously to the executive body of FA, the MF or the APL (i.e., the board);
 - (f) not belong simultaneously to the management personnel of an affiliated Club; and
 - (g) include at least one qualified lawyer and one qualified financial expert holding a qualification recognised by the appropriate National Professional Body.
- 8.8 Members of the FA Appeals and Entry Control Body must not belong simultaneously either to the administrative staff to any statutory decision-making body or committee of FA.

First Instance Body

- 8.9 The First Instance Body, in determining whether a Licence should be granted to a Club or whether a Licence should be withdrawn, bases its decision on the documents

provided by the Licensing Administration and in accordance with the provisions of the Club Licensing Manual.

- 8.10 The quorum for the First Instance Body is three (3) members. Each member of the First Instance Body will have one vote and the Chair will, in the event of a tie, have a casting vote.
- 8.11 The FA First Instance Body may determine that an AFC Men, AFC Women, A-League Men or A-League Women Licence Applicant has committed a Club Licensing Breach, in which case the First Instance Body must refer the case to the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in accordance with clause 8.12.
- 8.12 The FA First Instance Body must refer cases to:
 - (a) the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in accordance with clause 13, including by issuing an FIB Notice to the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, where the FA First Instance Body determines that the AFC Men, AFC Women, A-League Men or A-League Women Licence Applicant or Licensee has committed a Club Licensing Breach, including, but not limited to, a failure to fulfill a "B" criterion, non-respect of deadlines and / or failure to cooperate with the Licensing Administration; or
 - (b) FA, in the case of alleged breaches of the FA Statutes.

- 8.13 A Member Federation must either:

- (a) provide the MF First Instance Body with jurisdiction to determine the sanctions for a Club Licensing Breach committed by an NPL Men or NPL Women Licence Applicant or Licensee; or
- (b) provide an existing disciplinary body with jurisdiction to determine these sanctions.

This decision is subject to approval by FA.

Appeals to the FA Appeals and Entry Control Body

- 8.14 Appeals may only be lodged in writing and must be filed by a Licence Applicant in accordance with the timelines set out in the Core Process.
- 8.15 Appeals may only be lodged by:
 - (a) an AFC Men, AFC Women, A-League Men or A-League Women Licence Applicant who:
 - (i) received a refusal from the FA First Instance Body; or
 - (ii) the FA First Instance Body determined had committed at least one (1) Club Licensing Breach;
 - (b) an NPL Men or NPL Women Licence Applicant who received a refusal from the MF First Instance Body;
 - (c) a Licensee whose Licence has been withdrawn by the First Instance Body; or
 - (d) the Licensor, the competent body of which must be defined (e.g. Licensing Manager).

8.16 The sole grounds of any appeal to the FA Appeals and Entry Control Body by a Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable) are that:

- (a) it was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to provide information at first instance;
- (b) the determination of the First Instance Body was affected by bias;
- (c) the decision was one that was not reasonably open to the First Instance Body having regard to the submissions before it; or
- (d) in relation to a determination by the FA First Instance Body that the AFC Men, AFC Women, A-League Men or A-League Women Licence Applicant committed a Club Licensing Breach only, there was a material error in the application of these Regulations (e.g. an inaccurate assessment of a Licence Applicant's submissions as it relates to the fulfilment or non-fulfilment of a criterion) by the FA First Instance Body or FA's Licensing Administration.

8.17 To initiate an appeal, the Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable) must:

- (a) notify FA of its intention to appeal via CLAS;
- (b) lodge a completed appeal form with FA; and
- (c) pay to Football Australia an appeal fee of:
 - (i) in the case of an appeal regarding a licensing decision, \$10,000; or
 - (ii) in the case of an appeal regarding a Club Licensing Breach, \$5,000.

8.18 If the appellant is completely successful in its appeal:

- (a) in the case of an appeal regarding a licensing decision, \$6,000; or
- (b) in the case of an appeal regarding a Club Licensing Breach, \$3,000, will be refunded to the Licence Applicant.

8.19 The FA Appeals and Entry Control Body may impose an additional costs award against the Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable) if it finds the appeal to be frivolous or vexatious.

8.20 The FA Appeals and Entry Control Body shall make its decision based on the decision of the First Instance Body and only based on the evidence provided by the Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable), or the Licensor before the First Instance Body.

8.21 The FA Appeals and Entry Control Body has the right to determine all procedures to be adopted during a hearing of an appeal. Proceedings will be conducted with as little formality and technicality, and with as much expedition, as a proper consideration of the matters before the FA Appeals and Entry Control Body permit.

8.22 The quorum for the decisions of the FA Appeals and Entry Control Body is three (3) members. Each member of the FA Appeals and Entry Control Body will have one (1) vote and the Chair will, in the event of a tie, have a casting vote.

General

- 8.23 Determinations of the decision-making bodies will be provided in writing to the Licence Applicant.
- 8.24 In addition to the specific procedural rules outlined in these Regulations, the Chair of either the First Instance Body or FA Appeals and Entry Control Body is granted a broad power to issue directions governing the handling of any matter before the decision-making body he / she is chairing.
- 8.25 As a part of this licensing process, there is no right for a Licence Applicant to be heard in person or to make oral submissions to either the First Instance Body or FA Appeals and Entry Control Body. If a decision-making body requests that a Licence Applicant make oral submissions, the Licence Applicant may retain external legal advisors to make such submissions on its behalf.

Court of Arbitration for Sport

- 8.26 The Court of Arbitration for Sport shall be the final appellate authority as it relates to licence decisions and licence withdrawals.
- 8.27 A decision of the FA Appeals and Entry Control Body may be submitted by the Licence Applicant / Licensee and / or the Licensor by way of appeal exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in accordance with the Code of Sports-related Arbitration for the final resolution of a dispute regarding a licensing decision and / or licence withdrawals.
- 8.28 Any appeal must be filed by the Licence Applicant / Licensee and / or the Licensor with the Court of Arbitration for Sport within 21 days of receiving notice of the decision of the FA Appeals and Entry Control Body. In this respect, particular attention must be paid to the relevant deadlines for entering AFC Club Competitions.

9. Criteria

- 9.1 The Criteria described in these Regulations are graded into categories A, B and C as follows:

- (a) A – Club Licensing Criteria Gradation

These are mandatory Criteria to be fulfilled by the Licence Applicant. If the Licence Applicant does not fulfil any of the A – Club Licensing Criteria, then it shall not be granted with a Licence for the relevant FA Club Competition or AFC Club Competition.

- (b) B – Club Licensing Criteria Gradation

If the Licence Applicant does not fulfil any of the B – Club Licensing Criteria, then it shall be sanctioned as specified by FA for non-fulfilment of these Criteria, however, the Licence Applicant may still receive a Licence for the relevant FA Club Competition or AFC Club Competition.

- (c) C – Club Licensing Criteria Gradation

These Club Licensing Criteria are best practice recommendations.

- 9.2 FA may introduce additional Criteria not included in the AFC Club Licensing Regulations. For this purpose, any increase to the minimum requirements, upgrade of the Criteria gradation or introduction of additional minimum Club Licensing Criteria will not be inconsistent with the AFC Club Licensing Regulations.
- 9.3 The NPL Men and NPL Women Criteria are minimum standards for the NPL Men and NPL Women competitions, respectively, and Member Federations may increase the Criteria requirements, upgrade the Criteria gradation or introduce additional minimum Criteria. These changes must be submitted to FA's Licensing Administration for review and approval.
- 9.4 The Criteria are designed as minimum standards and so Clubs are encouraged to implement and report on their own higher quality standards, where applicable.

10. Exceptions

- 10.1 With respect to AFC Club Competitions, in accordance with the AFC Club Licensing Regulations, FA may seek an exemption from the application of these Regulations from the AFC General Secretariat.
- 10.2 With respect to 2026/27 NPL Men and NPL Women Criteria, each Member Federation may seek an exemption for a maximum of three (3) Criteria, including downgrading the Criteria grade and/or Criteria standards, from the FA Licensing Administration. Such requests must follow the procedures and deadlines outlined by FA.

11. Extraordinary Application of the Regulations for an AFC Club Competition

- 11.1 If a Club qualifies for an AFC Club Competition on sporting merit but has not undergone any licensing process at all or has undergone a licensing process which is lesser / not equivalent to the Licence required for the competition it became eligible for, FA may, on behalf of such a Club, request an extraordinary application of the Club Licensing System in accordance with Annex 4 of the AFC Club Licensing Regulations.
- 11.2 Based on such an extraordinary application, AFC may grant special permission to the Club to enter the corresponding AFC Club Competition subject to the relevant AFC Club Competition Regulations. Such an extraordinary application applies only to the specific Club and for the season in question.

12. Compliance Audits

- 12.1 FA may conduct compliance audits of a MF and Licence Applicant / Licensee at any time.
- 12.2 AFC and / or its nominated bodies / agencies reserve the right to, at any time, conduct compliance audits of FA and Licence Applicant / Licensee in respect of access to an AFC Club Competition.

- 12.3 Compliance audits aim to ensure that the Licensor, as well as the Licence Applicant / Licensee, have fulfilled their obligations as defined in these Regulations and that the Licence was correctly awarded at the time of the final decision of the Licensor.
- 12.4 In the event of any discrepancy in the interpretation between AFC Club Licensing Regulations and these Regulations, the AFC Club Licensing Regulations shall be authoritative in respect of access to an AFC Club Competition.

13. Disciplinary Procedures and Sanctions

- 13.1 The terms of these Regulations must be strictly complied with, and their spirit and intent honoured, in order to meet the stated objectives. If an AFC Men, AFC Women, A-League Men or A-League Women Licence Applicant or Licensee commits a Club Licensing Breach, the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose Club Licensing Sanctions in accordance with these Regulations.
- 13.2 The FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee has jurisdiction to determine matters referable to it pursuant to these Regulations. Where a matter is referred to the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee pursuant to clause 13.4, such matters must be heard and determined, including the imposition of sanction, in accordance with these Regulations and the FA Statutes.
- 13.3 The FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may enforce the terms of these Regulations and invoke the Club Licensing Sanctions only if the Licence Applicant or Licensee alleged to have engaged in the Club Licensing Breach has been given:
 - (a) reasonable and sufficient notice of each and every particular of the alleged Club Licensing Breaches;
 - (b) notice of possible Club Licensing Sanctions; and
 - (c) the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to that alleged Club Licensing Breach.

Disciplinary Procedures

- 13.4 In accordance with clause 8.12(a), the FA First Instance Body may only refer cases to the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee where the FA First Instance Body has determined that the AFC Men, AFC Women, A-League Men or A-League Women Licence Applicant or Licensee has committed one (1) or more Club Licensing Breaches.
- 13.5 The referral to the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee from the FA First Instance Body in accordance with clauses 8.12(a) and 13.4 is on the sole question of the Club Licensing Sanction to be imposed (above the Minimum Sanction, which must always be applied, where applicable).
- 13.6 On receipt of the FIB Notice of one (1) or more Club Licensing Breaches, the Administrator must within five (5) business days or as soon as practicable thereafter:
 - (a) convene the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in accordance with these Regulations, the FA Statutes, and the timelines specified in the Core Process or as

soon as practicable, noting always the specified deadlines associated with notification and eligibility for AFC Club Competitions;

(b) issue a Club Licensing Disciplinary Notice to the Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable).

13.7 The Club Licensing Disciplinary Notice must at least:

- (a) comply with clause 13.3 above, in particular, the particulars of each and every Club Licensing Breach, and provide notice of the possible sanctions; and
- (b) where possible, specify the details of the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee meeting convened in accordance with clause 13.6.

13.8 Unless otherwise notified by the Administrator pursuant to clause 13.6(b), once convened, the Administrator must immediately notify the Licence Applicant or Licensee named on the FIB Notice of the details of the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee meeting convened in accordance with clause 13.6(a).

FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee Hearing Procedures

13.9 In addition to the specific procedural rules outlined in these Regulations, the Chair of the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee is granted a broad power to issue directions governing the handling of any matter before the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee he / she is chairing.

13.10 The FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee convened in accordance with clause 13.6 will meet and determine each matter on the evidence, materials and submissions lodged or made by the Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable) in accordance with these Regulations.

13.11 The Administrator is responsible for the collation of the evidence, materials and submissions referred to in clause 13.10 and the provision of this to the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

13.12 As a part of this licensing process, there is no right for a Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable) to be heard in person or to make oral submissions to the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in respect of the sanction imposed by the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

13.13 If the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee requests that a Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable) make oral submissions, the Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable) may retain external legal advisors to make such submissions on its behalf.

13.14 Determinations of the decision-making bodies will be provided in writing to the Licence Applicant.

Sanctions

13.15 The scope and implementation of Club Licensing Sanctions determined by the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee are as specified in the FA Constitution and as further supplemented in this clause 13.

13.16 For AFC Men, AFC Women, A-League Men and A-League Women Licence Applicants or Licensees, the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee:

- (a) may, subject to the FA Constitution and these Regulations, in particular clause 13.17, impose the types of Club Licensing Sanctions specified in the FA Constitution;
- (b) must determine the type, form and scope of the Club Licensing Sanction in accordance with these Regulations;
- (c) must determine what Club Licensing Sanction it considers should apply in accordance with these Regulations.

13.17 In determining the Club Licensing Sanction, the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee:

- (a) must apply the Minimum Sanction set out in the Table of Minimum Sanctions as outlined in Annexure 5;
- (b) may consider:
 - (i) the nature and seriousness of the Club Licensing Breach or Club Licensing Breaches;
 - (ii) if the Club Licensing Breach relates to repeated Club Licensing Breaches, including the type, nature, severity, and consequences of such Club Licensing Breach, within the same Licensing Cycle and / or the two (2) Licensing Cycles prior to the current Licensing Cycle of:
 - (A) the same type;
 - (B) a different type;
 - (C) the same category of Criteria; or
 - (D) the Core Process;
 - (iii) in the case of repeated or consistent Club Licensing Breaches, if cumulative sanctions are appropriate;
 - (iv) if there have been any relevant prior warnings, education or disciplinary action;
 - (v) the need to deter such conduct;
 - (vi) the sanction which is required to give effect to the objects of these Regulations as set out in clause 2.6; and
 - (vii) any other mitigating or aggravating circumstances or any other matter that the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee reasonably considers relevant to the sanction.

13.18 The FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may apply Club Licensing Sanctions in addition to the Minimum Sanction.

13.19 Where more than one (1) Club Licensing Breaches has been committed as a result of the same conduct by the Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable), the Club Licensing Sanction must be based on the most serious infringement, and may be increased depending on the specific circumstances.

13.20 Member Federations must establish Club Licensing Sanctions for Club Licensing Breaches committed by NPL Men and NPL Women Licence Applicant and Licensees. These sanctions are subject to approval by FA with reference to the disciplinary sanctions specified in the FA Constitution.

Appeals

13.21 If an AFC Men, AFC Women, A-League Men or A-League Women Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable) wishes to appeal a Club Licensing Sanction imposed by the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee under these Regulations, that Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable) may appeal in accordance with the Grievance Procedure By-Law provided that it does so within seven (7) business days of notice of the sanction or determination.

13.22 For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in these Regulations precludes FA from enforcing the FA Statutes, including taking any disciplinary action, in respect of any matters, actions or conduct, including a failure or attempt to act or engage in any conduct, regarding or related to these Regulations.

General

13.23 FA may appoint an Administrator to support and provide administrative assistance to the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

13.24 The Administrator may perform the administrative function to support the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, which in relation to a matter before the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may include:

- (a) collating submissions, documents and evidence received by the parties or relevant to the matter(s) before the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee;
- (b) providing copies of all materials related to the parties;
- (c) convening the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in accordance with clause 13.6;
- (d) being the central point of contact for the parties and the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee; and
- (e) performing all tasks necessary to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

13.25 All notifications and communications that the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee intend for the parties (and vice versa) must be made through the Administrator.

13.26 The Administrator may arrange the meeting of the FA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee (and where necessary, oral hearings) to be conducted via in-person meeting, telephone conference, video conference or any other method.

13.27 The Administrator may issue orders to the Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable) of an administrative nature.

14. General

Legal Basis

14.1 The Regulations derive their legal basis from Article 35 of the FA Constitution.

Regulations and Inconsistency

14.2 In respect of access to an AFC Club Competition, in the event of an inconsistency between these Regulations and the AFC Club Licensing Regulations, the AFC Club Licensing Regulations will prevail and govern to the extent of that inconsistency.

Language of Correspondence

14.3 All correspondence between the AFC, FA, MFs and / or the Licence Applicant or Licensee (as applicable) must be in English.

Annexes

14.4 All annexures to the present Regulations form an integral part of these Regulations.

Implementing Provisions

14.5 FA will take the decisions and adopt, in the form of directives, the detailed provisions necessary for implementing these Regulations. FA reserves the right to make amendments to any part of these Regulations as necessary. Any amendments will be duly communicated in due course.

Matters Not Provided For

14.6 Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by FA. Such decisions are final, binding and not appealable.

Ratification

14.7 These Regulations have been approved by the FA Board of Directors and were adopted by FA on 12 December 2025 and came into force immediately and operate until they are amended or replaced.

Annexure 1: AFC & A-League Men Core Process Timeline 2026

DATE	ACTION
Thursday, 5 February 2026	FA Licensing Manager to distribute Invitation Letter and Licensing packs to Licence Applicants.
Thursday, 5 March 2026	Final date for Clubs to submit Personnel/Admin Criteria: P.01 – P.19
Thursday, 19 March 2026	Final date for Clubs to submit Sporting Criteria: S.01M – S.13
Thursday, 9 April 2026	Final date for Clubs to submit Financial and Infrastructure Criteria: I.01M – I.06M, F.03M, F.04M
Thursday, 23 April 2026	Final date for Clubs to submit Financial Criteria: F.01M, F.02, F.06 - F.07
Thursday, 30 April 2026	Final Date for Clubs to submit Legal Criteria and Personnel/Admin Criteria: L.01 – L.07 & L.10,
Monday, 4 May 2026	Final date for Clubs to submit Financial Criterion: F.05
Thursday, 14 May 2026	FA FIB to make decision on awarding of Licences to Licence Applicants for AFC Men Licence and A-League Men Licence.
Monday, 18 May 2026	FA Licensing Manager to advise Clubs of FA FIB's decision.
Friday, 22 May 2026	Deadline for Licence Applicants to file a request for appeal from the determination of the FA FIB.
Thursday, 28 May 2026	A&ECB to issue final determination on any appeals made from the decisions of the FA FIB for AFC Men Licence or A-League Men Licence.
Within two (2) weeks of the FA A&ECB meeting, or as otherwise determined by FA in its sole and absolute discretion.	FA D&EC to determine and issue Club Licensing Sanctions resulting from Club Licensing Breaches.
Friday, 29 May 2026	FA notifies AFC of List of Licensing Decisions
No Set Deadline - Throughout Licensing Season As Required	L.08, L.09, F.08, F.09 (updates as necessary)

Annexure 2: AFC & A-League Men Criteria 2026

SPORTING CRITERIA – MEN SPORTING CRITERIA – MEN

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.01M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (YDP)
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have a written Youth Development Program (YDP) approved by the Licenser. The Licenser must evaluate the quality of the youth development program before approving it and verify the implementation by periodic visits to the training and games.</p> <p>(2) The program must cover at least the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Objectives, youth playing philosophy and youth development philosophy; (b) Organisation of youth sector (organisational chart, bodies involved, relation to Licence Applicant, youth teams, etc.); (c) Personnel (technical, medical, administrative, etc.) and minimum qualifications required; (d) Infrastructure available for youth sector (training and match facilities, etc.); (e) Financial resources (available Budget, contribution by Licence Applicant, players or local community, etc.); (f) Football education program for the different age groups (psychological, technical, tactical and physical); (g) Education program (Laws of the Game, anti-doping, integrity, anti-racism); (h) Medical support for youth players (including medical checks); (i) Individual performance evaluation of players in the program; (j) Review and feedback process to evaluate the results and the achievements of the set objectives; and (k) Validity of the program (at least three years but maximum seven). <p>(3) The Licence Applicant must further ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) every youth player involved in its youth development program has the possibility to follow mandatory school education in accordance with national law; and (b) no youth player involved in its youth development program is prevented from continuing their non-football education. 			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.02M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	MEN'S YOUTH TEAMS

A-LEAGUE CRITERIA:

The Licence Applicant must at least have the following youth teams within its legal entity, another legal entity included in the reporting perimeter or a Club affiliated to its legal entity:

- (a) At least three (3) youth teams of different age groups within the age range of 15 to 21;
- (b) At least one (1) youth team within the age range of 10 to 14; and
- (c) Each youth team must take part in official competitions or programs played at national, regional or local level and recognised by Football Australia.

For the 2026 Licensing Cycle, the youth teams of the Licence Applicant may be in formal partnership with another Club or a Member Federation.

AFC CRITERIA:

The Licence Applicant must at least have the following youth teams within its legal entity, another legal entity included in the reporting perimeter or a Club affiliated to its legal entity:

- (a) At least three youth teams of different age groups within the age range of 10 to 21; and
- (b) At least one under 10 team

Each youth team, except the under 10s, must take part in official competitions or programs played at national, regional or local level and recognised by the AFC Member Association.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.03M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	MEDICAL CARE OF MEN'S PLAYERS

The Licence Applicant shall provide all players registered in the Club with full access to medical support services. These shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- (a) yearly medical examination, including cardiovascular screening for all its players in its first team;
- (b) yearly medical examination for all players above the age of 12; and
- (c) comprehensive medical insurance coverage for all players in its first squad.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.04	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must ensure that players and all technical coaching staff of at least the first team have attended a session or an event related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) sports integrity matters; (b) IFAB Laws of the Game; (c) doping control; and (d) other topics as required by the AFC. <p>(2) These sessions or events must be provided either by the Licence Applicant, Football Australia or a third party in collaboration with the Licence Applicant / Football Australia, during the year prior to the Season to be Licensed.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.05M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	REGISTRATION OF MEN'S PLAYERS
<p>All the Licence Applicant's players, including youth players aged 10 and above, must be registered with Football Australia and/or its affiliated league in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.06	B	ACL Elite: B ACL Two: B	RACIAL EQUALITY PRACTICE
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must establish a policy to tackle racism in football.</p> <p>(2) All players and staff of the Licence Applicant shall acknowledge the policy by signing the policy document.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.07	B	ACL Elite: B ACL Two: B	GRASSROOTS PROGRAMS

- (1) Children, youths, amateurs, veterans, those with learning or physical disabilities and the socially disadvantaged shall be included in the grassroots programs.
- (2) The main objectives of the Licence Applicant's grassroots football program shall be to encourage mass participation, stimulating greater interest in the game, providing more opportunities for social inclusion, supporting healthy lifestyles and the development of young people, both the sporting and educational aspects.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.08	B	ACL Elite: B ACL Two: B	CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Licence Applicant must establish and apply measures, in line with any relevant AFC policies and guidelines, the FA Member Protection Framework and the FA Safeguarding Policy, to protect and safeguard children from potential abuses and to promote their wellbeing within football when participating in activities organised by the Licence Applicant. (2) The Licence Applicant should work with locally based child protection expertise and have a child safeguarding officer / Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) within its administration to develop and implement such measures, including having a child safeguarding policy. (3) The Licence Applicant must abide by the relevant child protection legislation in each state/territory. 			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.09	C	ACL Elite: C ACL Two: C	WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

The Licence Applicant must support women's football by implementing measures and activities aimed at developing, professionalising and popularising women's football, such as:

- a) having a women's team within its legal entity or another legal entity included in the reporting perimeter which takes part in official competitions played at the local, national and/or regional level, as recognised by Football Australia;
- b) providing support to an affiliated women's football club; and/or
- c) organising other women's football initiatives.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
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S.10	C	ACL Elite: C ACL Two: C	CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) PROGRAMS
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant to establish strategies and implementation program to promote the Club, the game and to address current issues in football and society.</p> <p>(2) Support should be provided for initiatives and campaigns to implement strategies and programs as promulgated by either the Licence Applicant, Football Australia, AFC and FIFA.</p> <p>(3) Such programs connect and create links with the community which will facilitate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) establishment and enlargement of their fan base; (b) creation of a pool of volunteers; (c) organisation of grassroots football activities, initiatives and events for and within the community; (d) creation of strong links with the community; and (e) creation of a market base for branding, merchandising, sponsors and commercial partners. 			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.11	C	ACL Elite: C ACL Two: C	CLUB YOUTH ACADEMY

The Licence Applicant should establish a Club Youth Academy with the required infrastructure and facilities as prescribed in the AFC Elite Youth Scheme.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.12	C	N/A	DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

(1) The Licence Applicant must establish a policy that addresses diversity and inclusion within its Club.

(2) All players and staff of the Licence Applicant must be aware of and have access to the policy.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.13	C	N/A	MARKETING PLAN / STRATEGY

The Licence Applicant must establish a comprehensive Marketing Plan / Strategy.

INFRASTRUCTURE CRITERIA – MEN

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.01M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	APPROVED STADIUM(S)

A-LEAGUE CRITERIA:

- (1) The Licence Applicant must have a Stadium (or Stadiums) available to play A-League Men's matches. The Licence Applicant either:
 - (a) owns the Stadium(s); or
 - (b) can provide a written contract with the owner of the Stadium(s) it will use. This contract must guarantee the use of the Stadium(s) for the A-League matches for the coming season.
- (2) The Stadium(s) must meet the requirements expressly referred to by the A-League Men Competition Regulations, including but not limited to the A-Leagues CPP – Events and Venue Operations.
- (3) The Stadium(s) must be located in the same city where the Licence Applicant is based. If the Stadium is not located in the Licence Applicant's same city, a justifiable reason should be provided. For the purposes of this I.01M, the "same city" is defined as the greater metropolitan area in which the Licence Applicant is regularly domiciled.

AFC CRITERIA:

- (1) The Licence Applicant must have a Stadium available to play AFC Club Competitions. The Licence Applicant either:
 - (a) owns the Stadium; or
 - (b) can provide a written contract with the owner of the Stadium it will use. This contract must guarantee the use of the Stadium for the AFC matches for the coming season, for which the Licence Applicant qualifies in sporting terms.
- (2) The Stadium must meet the requirements expressly referred to by the:
 - (a) AFC Stadium Regulations; and
 - (b) Respective AFC Club Competition regulations/AFC Competition Operations Manual.
- (3) The Stadium must be approved by the Licensor and located in the same city where the Licence Applicant is based. If the Stadium is not located in the Licence Applicant's base city, a justifiable reason should be provided.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.02M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	STADIUM(S) – SAFETY CERTIFICATION

A-LEAGUE CRITERIA:

- (1) The Stadium(s) must be certified for safety. The certification is defined according to national/local law and must include provisions related to safety. If such law does not exist, the Licensor (Football Australia) shall establish the content of the Stadium certificate and the procedure in close cooperation with the appropriate body/bodies (e.g. local safety and security authorities, the local hospital, fire brigade, police, etc.)
- (2) The certificate and accompanying documentation must comply with the requirements in the AFC Safety and Security Regulations and must provide at least the following information:
 - (a) safety status of the Stadium structure and building fitness;
 - (b) compliance statement regarding the safety/security regulations of the competent civil authority;
 - (c) approval of the entire Stadium capacity (individual seats, terraces and total number);
 - (d) approved evacuation plan which ensures that the whole Stadium can be emptied in a case of emergency according to the applicable national law;
 - (e) a colour-coded floor plan diagram showing the possible evacuation routes should be prominently displayed in the Stadium; and
 - (f) an approved match security plan covering the organisational measures intended to ensure safety and security strategy covering all aspects of the organisation of a football match, such as ticket distribution system, screening of spectators, segregation strategy, crowd dispersal strategy, medical service, measures taken in case of fire, loss of power supply, or other emergency.

AFC CRITERIA - ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT:

- (3) The certificate issued by the appropriate body must be valid for a maximum of two (2) years and shall be valid throughout the Licensing Season.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.03M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	STADIUM(S) – APPROVED EVACUATION PLAN
<p>(1) The Stadium(s) must have an approved Evacuation Plan. The appropriate body (e.g. safety and security authority, competent civil authority or other qualified and approved firms, etc.) shall approve the evacuation plan, which ensures that the whole Stadium can be emptied in a case of emergency according to the applicable national and/or state law.</p> <p>(2) If such law does not exist, the Licensor (Football Australia) establishes the content of the evacuation plan, including an evacuation time and the approval body, in close cooperation with the appropriate civil body (e.g. local safety and security authorities, the local hospital, fire brigade, police, etc.)</p> <p>(3) A colour-coded floor plan diagram showing the possible evacuation routes shall be developed and prominently displayed in the Stadium(s).</p> <p>(4) A Risk Analysis specific to the Stadium(s) shall be conducted.</p> <p>(5) The Safety and Security Officer, stewards and Club and Stadium employees shall be briefed on the evacuation plan.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.04M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	TRAINING FACILITIES – AVAILABILITY
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have Training Facilities available throughout the year. The Licence Applicant either:</p> <p>(a) owns the Training Facilities; or</p> <p>(b) can provide a written contract with the owner of the Training Facilities.</p> <p>(2) It must be guaranteed that the Training Facilities can be used by all teams of the Licence Applicant during the Licensing Season, taking into account its youth development program.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.05M	B	ACL Elite: B ACL Two: B	TRAINING FACILITIES FOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT – MINIMUM INFRASTRUCTURE

As a minimum, the infrastructure of the Training Facilities for Player Development must include:

- (a) outdoor Training Facilities;
- (b) indoor Training Facilities;
- (c) dressing rooms; and
- (d) medical room(s) or direct access to first aid at the training site.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.06M	B	ACL Elite: B ACL Two: B	STADIUM(S) – GROUND RULES

(1) Ground rules must be visibly affixed at each stadium and made available online to spectators. These rules must provide information on at least the following:

- (a) admission rights;
- (b) abandonment or postponement of events;
- (c) description of prohibitions and penalties, such as entering the field of play, throwing objects, use of foul or abusive language, racist behaviour, etc.;
- (d) restrictions with regard to smoking, alcohol, fireworks, banners, etc.;
- (e) seating rules; and
- (f) causes for ejection from the ground.

(2) As outlined in the FA National Code of Conduct and Ethics, the Licence Applicant must ensure the FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced in relation to all attendees. The Licence Applicant is responsible and liable for the conduct of its supporters.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CRITERIA - MEN

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.01	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	CLUB SECRETARIAT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Licence Applicant must have an office space sufficiently spacious to run its administration with the required infrastructure. (2) The Licence Applicant must have appointed adequate number of skilled secretarial staff according to its needs to run its daily business. (3) It must ensure that its office is open to communicate with Football Australia and the public and that it is equipped, as a minimum, with phone, email facilities and a website. 			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.02M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	GENERAL MANAGER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a General Manager being responsible for running its daily business (operational matters). (2) The appointment must have been done by the appropriate body (e.g. Executive Board) of the Licence Applicant. 			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.03	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	FINANCE OFFICER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Finance Officer being responsible for its financial matters. (2) The Finance Officer must hold, as a minimum, one of the following qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a degree in accountancy, finance or related field; or (b) a "recognition of competence" issued by an organisation recognised by Football Australia. 			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.04	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	SAFETY AND SECURITY OFFICER
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Safety and Security Officer being responsible for safety and security matters.</p> <p>(2) The Safety and Security Officer must hold, as a minimum, one of the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a certificate as a policeman or security person according to national law; or (b) a safety and security diploma based on a specific course issued by Football Australia or by a state-recognised organisation; or (c) a “recognition of competence” approved by Football Australia, which is based on the participation in specific safety and security course of FA and at least one (1) year experience in such matters. <p>(3) The Safety and Security Officer must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.05	A	ACL Elite: A AC Two: A	MEDIA OFFICER
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Media Officer being responsible for media matters.</p> <p>(2) The Media Officer must hold, as a minimum, one of the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a diploma in journalism; (b) concluded a media officer education course provided by Football Australia or an organisation recognised by Football Australia; or (c) a “recognition of competence” approved by Football Australia, which requires at least one (1) year experience in such matters. <p>(3) The Media Officer must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.06M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	TEAM DOCTOR – MEN'S TEAM
(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed at least one doctor who is responsible for medical support during matches and training as well as for doping prevention. (2) The qualification of the Team Doctor must be recognised by the appropriate national health authorities. (3) The Team Doctor must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.07M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	PHYSIOTHERAPIST – MEN'S TEAM
(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed at least one physiotherapist who is responsible for medical treatment and massages for the first team during trainings and matches. (2) The qualification of the Physiotherapist must be recognised by the appropriate national health authorities. (3) The Physiotherapist must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.08M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	HEAD COACH OF MEN'S FIRST TEAM
(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Head Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence responsible for all football matters of the first team. (2) The Head Coach must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> hold at least the Minimum Coaching Requirement (MCR) as stipulated by the AFC Competition Operations Manual or the A-League Competition Regulations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> for AFC, the current MCR is benchmarked at the AFC "Pro" Coaching Certificate or its equivalence recognised and approved by AFC; for the A-League Men, the current requirement is benchmarked at the AFC or UEFA "Pro" Diploma licence; or 			

- (b) hold a Recognition of Experience and Current Competence (**RECC**) issued by AFC in compliance with the RECC regulations for cases where the Head Coach of the first team does not have the required certification as defined under (a) above; or
- (c) already have started the required education course, recognised by AFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.

(3) The Head Coach must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.

(4) The Head Coach must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant (or another entity within the legal group structure of the licence applicant). The Licence Applicant must ensure that the contract is in line with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (**RSTP**).

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.09M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	ASSISTANT COACH OF MEN'S FIRST TEAM
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint an Assistant Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence responsible for assisting the Head Coach in all football technical matters of the first team.</p> <p>(2) The Assistant Coach must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least the Minimum Coaching Requirement (MCR) as stipulated by the AFC Competition Operations Manual or the A-League Competition Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) for AFC, the current MCR is benchmarked at the AFC "A" Coaching Certificate or its equivalence recognised and approved by AFC; (ii) for the A-League Men, the current requirement is benchmarked at the AFC or UEFA "A" Diploma licence; or (b) hold a Recognition of Experience and Current Competence (RECC) issued by AFC in compliance with the RECC regulations for cases where the Head Coach of the first team does not have the required certification as defined under (a) above; or (c) already have started the required education course, recognised by AFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above. <p>(3) The Assistant Coach must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p> <p>(4) The Assistant Coach must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant (or another entity within the legal group structure of the licence applicant). The Licence Applicant must ensure that the contract is in line with the relevant provisions of the FIFA RSTP.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.10	C	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	HEAD OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Head of Youth Development (HYD) with a valid coaching diploma/licence responsible for managing and implementing all aspects of youth development matters including the Youth Development Program (YDP).</p> <p>(2) The Head of the Youth Development must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least the AFC "A" diploma/licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by AFC; or (b) already have started the required education course, recognised by AFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above; (c) have specific youth coaching experience and/or supplementary certification/qualification related to coaching and managing young players; and (d) have strong management and administration skills to ensure the efficient implementation of the program, activities, roles and duties in collaboration with other relevant personnel. <p>(3) The Head of Youth Development must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.11M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	MEN'S YOUTH COACHES
<p>(1) For each mandatory youth team, the Licence Applicant must have appointed at least one qualified coach who is responsible for all football matters related to that team.</p> <p>(2) At least two (2) Youth Coaches must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least the AFC "B" coaching diplomas/licences or its equivalence recognised and approved by AFC; (b) have specific youth coaching experience and/or supplementary certification/qualification related to coaching and managing young players; and (c) have strong management and administration skills to ensure the efficient implementation of the program, activities, roles and duties in collaboration with other relevant personnel. <p>(3) The other Youth Coaches must hold the minimum qualification as defined by Football Australia, which shall not be below the Football Australia "C" coaching diploma/licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by AFC.</p> <p>(4) The Youth Coaches must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p>			

(5) Each Youth Coach must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant (or another entity within the legal group structure of the licence applicant). The Licence Applicant must ensure that the contract is in line with the relevant provisions of the FIFA RSTP.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.12M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	SAFETY AND SECURITY ORGANISATION - STEWARDING

The Licence Applicant must have engaged qualified stewards to ensure safety and security at home matches. For this purpose, it must:

- (a) employ the stewards; or
- (b) conclude a written contract with the Stadium owner providing the stewards, or an external security company providing stewards.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.13M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

The rights, responsibilities and duties of the Licence Applicant's personnel mentioned in these Regulations must be defined in writing.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.14M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	DUTY OF REPLACEMENT DURING THE LICENSING SEASON

- (1) If a function defined in these Regulations becomes vacant during the Licensing Season, the Licensee must ensure that, within a period of a maximum of sixty (60) days, the function is taken over by someone who holds the required qualification.
- (2) In the event that a function becomes vacant due to illness or accident, Football Australia may grant an extension to the sixty (60) day period only if reasonably satisfied that the person concerned is still medically unfit to resume duties.
- (3) The occurrence of a vacancy and replacement must be notified to Football Australia within seven (7) working days of the respective event.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.15	C	ACL Elite: B ACL Two: B	LEGAL ADVISOR
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a qualified Legal Advisor who is responsible to handle all legal matters in the Licence Applicant's activities.</p> <p>(2) The Legal Advisor shall have the necessary legal qualifications.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.16	C	ACL Elite: B ACL Two: B	CLUB TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must employ a Club Technical Director.</p> <p>(2) The Technical Director should have at least an AFC "A" coaching diploma/licence and supplementary qualities like an extensive playing and work experience at the professional club level or have been a long-serving dedicated member of the Club as a player, coach, manager or advisor.</p> <p>(3) The Technical Director must have strong management skills, be visionary and lead the technical development of the Club.</p> <p>(4) The Technical Director shall be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) establish and/or implement Club philosophy; (b) establish Youth and Player Development Structures and Programs; (c) ensure technical standards are maintained and enhanced; (d) monitor and evaluate all technical and developmental programs; (e) talent scouting; (f) management of Club's Youth Academies; (g) recruitment and management of coaches and talent scouts; and (h) management of match analysis processes. <p>(5) The Technical Director must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.17M	B	ACL Elite: B ACL Two: B	GOALKEEPER COACH OF MEN'S FIRST TEAM
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Goalkeeper Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence for the first team.</p> <p>(2) The Goalkeeper Coach must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least the Minimum Coaching Requirements (MCR) as stipulated by the AFC Competitions Operations Manual or the A-League Competition Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) for AFC, the current MCR is benchmarked at the "Level 3" Goalkeeping Coaching Certificate or its equivalence recognised and approved by AFC; (ii) for the A-League Men, the current requirement is benchmarked at the "Level 3" Goalkeeping Licence; or (b) hold a Recognition of Experience and Current Competence (RECC) issued by AFC in compliance with the RECC regulations for cases where the Goalkeeper Coach does not have the required certification as defined under (a) above; or (c) already have started the required education course, recognised by AFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above. <p>(3) The Goalkeeper Coach must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant (or another entity within the legal group structure of the licence applicant). The Licence Applicant must ensure that the contract is in line with the relevant provisions of the FIFA RSTP.</p> <p>(4) The Goalkeeper Coach must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.18M	B	ACL Elite: B ACL Two: B	FITNESS COACH OF MEN'S FIRST TEAM
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Fitness Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence for the first team.</p> <p>(2) The Fitness Coach must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least the Minimum Coaching Requirements (MCR) as stipulated by the AFC Competitions Operations Manual or the A-League Competition Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) for AFC, the current MCR is benchmarked at the "Level 2" Fitness Coaching Certificate or its equivalence recognised and approved by AFC; (ii) for the A-League Men, the current requirement is benchmarked at the ASCA Level 2 Strength and Conditioning Coach Accreditation (or confirmation of accreditation by ASCA), ESSA Level 2 Accreditation or AFC/FA Football Conditioning Licence; or 			

(b) hold a Recognition of Experience and Current Competence (**RECC**) issued by AFC in compliance with the RECC regulations for cases where the Fitness Coach does not have the required certification as defined under (a) above; or

(c) already have started the required education course, recognised by AFC or FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.

(3) The Fitness Coach must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.19	B	N/A	SPORTS PSYCHOLOGIST / WELL-BEING MANAGER

(1) The Licence Applicant must ensure that its registered players have access to a sports psychologist and/or well-being manager who is responsible for delivering confidential psychological support services.

(2) This access may be facilitated by the services provided in conjunction with the PFA.

LEGAL CRITERIA – MEN

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.01	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	DECLARATION IN RESPECT OF THE PARTICIPATION IN AFC AND FA CLUB COMPETITIONS
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must submit a legally-valid declaration confirming that the Licence Applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) recognises as legally-binding the statutes, rules and regulations and decisions of FIFA, the AFC, Football Australia and the Australian Professional Leagues, as well as the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne as provided in the relevant articles of the AFC Statutes; (b) recognises the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (domiciled in Lausanne, Switzerland) for any dispute of international dimension and in particular involving FIFA and/or the AFC; (c) recognises the prohibition on recourse to ordinary courts under the FIFA Statutes, AFC Statutes and the FA Statutes; (d) At national level, it will play in competitions that are recognised and endorsed by Football Australia (e.g. national championship, national cup); (e) At international level, it will participate in competitions recognised and endorsed by the AFC and/or FIFA. To avoid any doubt, this provision does not relate to friendly matches; (f) will abide by and observe the provisions and conditions of the national Club Licensing Regulations; (g) Its reporting perimeter is defined in accordance with Annexure 2: Financial Criteria – Reporting Perimeter of the Regulations and it will be accountable for any consequences of an entity included in the reporting perimeter not abiding by and observing this declaration. (h) All submitted documents are complete and correct; (i) authorises the competent Lessor to examine documents and seek information and, in the event of any appeal procedure, to seek information from any relevant public authority or private body according to national law; and (j) acknowledges that FIFA, the AFC and/or FA reserve the right to execute compliance audits at national level in accordance with clause 12 of the Regulations. <p>(2) This declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three (3) months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to Football Australia.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.02M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	LEGAL DOCUMENTS

The Licence Applicant must submit the following documents:

- (a) a copy of its current company articles, constitution, statutes or similar-type governing document;
- (b) an extract from a public register (e.g. trade register) which demonstrates that the Licence Applicant is a legal entity which contains the following minimum information;
 - (i) registered name;
 - (ii) popular name;
 - (iii) address of headquarters;
 - (iv) legal form;
 - (v) list of authorised signatories; and
 - (vi) type of signature (e.g. individual, collective).
- (c) (If applicable) the agreement between the Licence Applicant and the relevant member which has the right to participate in affiliated competitions of Football Australia.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.03	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF CLUBS

(1) To safeguard the integrity of national matches and competitions, Licence Applicants must be committed to ensuring that they conform to the highest ethical and sporting standards regarding matters of ownership and Control.

In this regard, the Licence Applicant must comply with the following criteria:

- (a) the Licence Applicant shall not, either directly or indirectly:
 - (i) hold or deal in the securities or shares of any other participating club(s) in the same national competition;
 - (ii) be a member of any other participating club(s) in the same national competition;
 - (iii) be involved in any capacity whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other participating club(s) in the same national competition; and/or
 - (iv) have any power whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other participating club(s) in the same national competition,

if there is a material risk that this would actually or potentially jeopardise the integrity of the national competition;

- (b) No one connected to the Licence Applicant shall simultaneously be involved, either directly or indirectly, in any capacity whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of the Licence Applicant and any other participating club(s) in the same national competition, if there is a material risk that this would actually or potentially jeopardise the integrity of the national competition.
- (c) No individual or legal entity connected to the Licence Applicant shall have Control or influence over any other participating club(s) in the same national competition, if there is a material risk that this would actually or potentially jeopardise the integrity of the national competition. In assessing whether or not Control or influence exists in this context, the following factors shall be taken into account:
 - (i) holding a majority of the shareholders' voting rights in the relevant clubs;
 - (ii) having the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management, or supervisory body of the relevant clubs;
 - (iii) being a shareholder and alone controlling a majority of the shareholders' voting rights pursuant to an agreement entered into with other shareholders of the relevant clubs; and/or
 - (iv) being able to exercise by any means a decisive influence in the decision-making of the relevant clubs.
- (2) The Licence Applicant shall submit a legally valid and binding declaration outlining the ownership structure and Control mechanism of the club, and confirming its compliance with the criteria set out above. If the Licence Applicant considers that it may contravene any of the criteria, this should be explained in the declaration (with evidence). The declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three (3) months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to the Licenser.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.04	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	LEGAL GROUP STRUCTURE AND ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY
(1) The Licence Applicant must provide Football Australia (FA) with information on the legal Group structure at the Statutory Closing Date prior to the deadline for the submission of the application to FA. It must be presented in a chart and duly approved by management. FA must be informed of any changes there may have been to the legal Group structure during the period between the Statutory Closing Date and the submission of the chart to FA.			
(2) This document must clearly identify and include information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Licence Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of Football Australia; (b) any Subsidiary of the Licence Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of Football Australia; 			

- (c) any Joint Venture entity, including other parties with an interest in the Joint Venture, in which the Licence Applicant (or, if different, the Registered Member of the AFC Member Association) has an interest;
- (d) any Associate entity of the Licence Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of Football Australia;
- (e) any direct or indirect Controlling entity of the Licence Applicant, up to and including the ultimate Controlling party;
- (f) any party that has 10% or greater direct or indirect ownership of the Licence Applicant, or 10% or greater voting rights;
- (g) any party with a Significant Influence over the Licence Applicant;
- (h) any other football club, in respect of which any of the parties identified in (a) to (g) or any of their key management personnel have any ownership interest, voting rights, and/or any involvement or influence whatsoever in its management, administration and/or sporting performance; and
- (i) The reporting perimeter as defined in Annexure 2: Financial Criteria – Reporting Perimeter must also be clearly identified in the document.

(3) If deemed relevant, FA may request the Licence Applicant/Licensee to provide additional information other than that listed above (e.g. information about any subsidiaries and/or Associates of the ultimate Controlling entity and/or direct Controlling entity).

(4) The following information must be provided in relation to all entities included in the legal Group structure:

- (a) name of legal entity;
- (b) type of legal entity;
- (c) main activity of legal entity; and
- (d) percentage of ownership interest (and, if different, percentage of voting power held).

(5) For any Subsidiary of the Licence Applicant/Licensee and, if different, the Registered Member of Football Australia, the following information must also be provided:

- (a) share capital;
- (b) total assets;
- (c) total revenues; and
- (d) total equity.

(6) Without prejudice to the foregoing, the Licensor shall ensure that it assesses the information provided by the Licence Applicant under Criterion L.04 to determine the accuracy of the Licence Applicant's declaration under Criterion L.03. Accordingly, the Licence Applicant shall ensure that it clearly identifies and includes information regarding its compliance with the various components of the declaration under Criterion L.03 when providing the Licensor with information on its legal Group structure under Criteria L.04.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.05M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH MEN'S PLAYERS

The professional players of the Licence Applicant must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players (or for amateur players, a valid memorandum of understanding with the Licence Applicant) and shall incorporate all key provisions required by the relevant national law and of FIFA, the AFC and Football Australia.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.06	B	ACL Elite: B ACL Two: B	DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

(1) The Licence Applicant must establish a legally binding code of conduct for players and officials in compliance with the relevant national law, and the Statutes of FIFA, the AFC and Football Australia.

(2) The code of conduct should be supplemented by a legally binding disciplinary regulation under which the infringement of the code of conduct, Club rules, Club regulations, and Club decisions shall be prosecuted, and sanctions may be applied.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.07	A	N/A	FIT AND PROPER PERSON TEST

The Licence Applicant must submit valid declarations outlining that no:

(a) Director; or

(b) Shareholder who meets the reporting threshold of 5% or greater ownership is subject to a Disqualifying Condition.

SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION

Criteria L.08 and L.09 apply to all Licensees after the licensing decision.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.08	A	N/A	UPDATES TO LEGAL DOCUMENTS AND OWNERSHIP / CONTROL OF CLUBS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Following the licensing decision, if a change in the ownership or company structure of the Licensee occurs that meets the reporting threshold, the Licensee must submit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) updated legal documents (L.02M and L.03) that disclose the change(s) and (b) an updated Legal Group Structure and Ultimate Controlling Party chart (L.04). (2) The reporting threshold for a change of ownership is met when any entity, trust or individual obtains or procures 5% or greater ownership of the Licensee. (3) The change(s) must be submitted within twenty-one (21) business days of the respective event(s). 			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.09	A	N/A	UPDATES TO FIT AND PROPER PERSON TEST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Following the licensing decision, if a change occurs in the Licensee's Directors or a change occurs in the Licensee's Shareholders that meets the reporting threshold, the Licensee must submit a valid declaration outlining that the new Director or Shareholder is not subject to a Disqualifying Condition. (2) The reporting threshold for a change of ownership is met when any entity, trust or individual obtains or procures 5% or greater ownership of the Licensee. (3) The change(s) must be submitted within twenty-one (21) business days of the respective event(s). 			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.10	C	N/A	BOARD REPRESENTATION
<p>The Licence Applicant's Board of Directors should comply with the 40:40:20 principle: 40% women, 40% men, 20% either.</p>			

FINANCIAL CRITERIA – REPORTING PERIMETER – MEN

REPORTING ENTITY/ENTITIES AND REPORTING PERIMETER

- (1) The Licence Applicant determines and provides to the Licensor the reporting perimeter, i.e. the entity or combination of entities in respect of which financial information (e.g. single entity, consolidated or combined financial statements) has to be provided.
- (2) The reporting perimeter must include:
 - (a) the Licence Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of Football Australia;
 - (b) any Subsidiary of the Licence Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of Football Australia;
 - (c) any other entity included in the legal Group structure which generates revenues and/or performs services and/or incurs costs in respect of the football activities defined in paragraphs (3)(c) to (j) below;
 - (d) any entity, irrespective of whether it is included in the legal Group structure, which generates revenues and/or performs services and/or incurs costs in respect of football activities as defined in paragraphs (3)(a) and (b) below.
- (3) Football activities include:
 - (a) employing/engaging personnel (as defined in Criteria F.04M) including payment of all forms of consideration to employees arising from contractual or legal obligations;
 - (b) acquiring/selling players' registrations (including loans);
 - (c) ticketing;
 - (d) sponsorship and advertising;
 - (e) broadcasting;
 - (f) merchandising and hospitality;
 - (g) club operations (e.g. administration, matchday activities, travel, scouting, etc.);
 - (h) financing (including financing secured or pledged against the assets of the Licence Applicant);
 - (i) use and management of Stadium and Training Facilities; and
 - (j) youth sector.
- (4) An entity may be excluded from the reporting perimeter only if:
 - (a) its activities are entirely unrelated to the football activities defined in paragraph c) above and/or the locations, assets or brand of the football club; or
 - (b) it is immaterial compared with all the entities that form the reporting perimeter and it does not perform any of the football activities defined in paragraph (3)(a) and (b) above; or
 - (c) the football activities it performs are already entirely reflected in the financial statements of one of the entities included in the reporting perimeter.
- (5) The Licence Applicant must submit a declaration by an authorised signatory which confirms:

- (a) that all revenues and costs related to each of the football activities indicated in paragraph (d) have been included in the reporting perimeter and provide a detailed explanation should this not be the case; and
- (b) whether any entity included in the legal Group structure has been excluded from the reporting perimeter, justifying any such exclusion with reference to paragraph (4) immediately above.

For further information on mandatory reporting period and minimum requirements on the format of reporting and accounting as well as detailed explanation of each of the criterion below, please refer to the Football Australia Club Licensing Manual (which is promulgated by Football Australia from time to time and may be made available again on request), the AFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook and/or the AFC Financial Handbook Reference Library (both of which are available on the AFC's website).

FINANCIAL CRITERIA – MEN

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.01M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - AUDITED
<p>(1) Regardless of the legal structure of the Licence Applicant, Annual Financial Statements based on the local legislation for incorporated companies shall be prepared and Audited by an Independent Auditor.</p> <p>(2) The Audited Annual Financial Statements shall be in respect of the Statutory Closing Date immediately prior to the deadline for submission of the List of Licensing Decisions to AFC (i.e. FY2025 for the 2026 cycle). The statements must consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a balance sheet; (b) a profit and loss account; (c) a cash flow statement; (d) notes, comprising a summary of significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory notes; and (e) a financial review by management. <p>(3) These Audited Financial Statements shall meet the minimum disclosure requirements and accounting principles defined by the AFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook.</p> <p>(4) If the Audited Financial Statements do not meet the minimum disclosure requirements and accounting principles defined by the AFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook, then Supplementary Information must be prepared by the Licence Applicant and assessed by the auditor.</p> <p>(5) For the A-League Men Licence only, if draft financial statements and an auditor engagement letter confirming statements are in the process of completion is submitted by the fulfil deadline, the criteria may be considered fulfilled but additional sanctions (as per the list of sanctions in the FA Constitution) above and beyond the minimum sanctions for late submissions may apply.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.02	N/A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD – REVIEWED
<p>(6) If the Statutory Closing Date of the Licence Applicant is more than six (6) months before the deadline for submission of the List of Licensing Decisions to AFC, then the Licence Applicant shall prepare and submit additional financial statements covering the Interim Period (i.e., 1 July 2025 – 30 November 2025 for the 2026 cycle).</p>			

(7) If the Financial Statements for the Interim Period are prepared and submitted, they should cover the Interim Period up to a date within six (6) months preceding the deadline for submission of the List of Licensing Decisions to AFC and must be Reviewed or Audited by an Independent Auditor.

(8) The Interim Financial Statements must meet the minimum disclosure requirements and accounting principles defined by the AFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.03M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	NO OVERDUE PAYABLES TOWARDS FOOTBALL CLUBS ARISING FROM TRANSFER ACTIVITIES

The Licence Applicant must prove that it has no overdue payables towards football Clubs arising from transfer activities as at 31 December preceding the Season to be Licensed, unless by the following 31 March they have been fully settled, deferred by mutual agreement with the creditor or are subject to a not obviously unfounded dispute submitted to a competent authority.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.04M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	NO OVERDUE PAYABLES TOWARDS EMPLOYEES AND SOCIAL/TAX AUTHORITIES
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must prove that, in respect of contractual and legal obligations with its current/former employees and social/tax authorities it has no overdue payables at 31 December preceding the Season to be Licensed, unless by the following 31 March they have been fully settled, deferred by mutual agreement with the creditor or are subject to a not obviously unfounded dispute submitted to a competent authority.</p> <p>(2) The term "employees" shall include but not be limited to:</p> <p>(a) all professional players according to the applicable FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of players; and</p> <p>(b) the administrative, technical, medical and security staff specified in the FA Club Licensing Regulations.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.05	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS PRIOR TO THE LICENSING DECISION
<p>(1) Within seven (7) days prior to the date on which the licensing decision is to be made by the First Instance Body, the Licence Applicant must make written representations to Football Australia.</p> <p>(2) The written representations shall confirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) That all documents submitted to the Licenser are complete and correct; (b) Whether or not any Significant Change in relation to all the licensing Criteria has occurred; (c) Whether or not any Events or Conditions of Major Economic importance have occurred that may have an adverse impact on the Licence Applicant's financial position since the balance sheet date of the preceding Audited Annual Financial Statements or Reviewed Interim Financial Statements (if applicable). If any Events or Conditions of Major Economic Importance have occurred, the management representations letter must include a description of the nature of the event or condition and an estimate of its financial effect, or a statement that such an estimate cannot be made; and (d) Whether or not the Licence Applicant (or the Registered Member of Football Australia which has a contractual relationship with the Licence Applicant within the meaning of clause 7.1) or any Parent company of the Licence Applicant included in the reporting perimeter is seeking or has received protection from its creditors pursuant to laws or regulations within the 12 months preceding the Licensing Season. <p>(3) Approval by management must be evidenced by way of a signature on behalf of the executive body of the Licence Applicant.</p>			

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.06	A	ACL Two: A ACL Two: A	FUTURE FINANCIAL INFORMATION
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must prepare and submit Future Financial Information in order to demonstrate to the Licenser its ability to continue as a Going Concern until the end of the Licensing Season if it has breached any of the indicators defined in (2) below.</p> <p>(2) If a Licence Applicant exhibits any of the conditions described by indicator 1 or 2, it is considered in breach of the indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Indicator 1: Going Concern 			

The auditor's report in respect of the Annual or Interim Financial Statements submitted in accordance with F.01M and F.02 includes an emphasis of matter or a qualified opinion/conclusion in respect of Going Concern.

(b) **Indicator 2: Negative Equity**

The Annual Financial Statements (including, where required, the Supplementary Information) submitted in accordance with F.01M disclose a net liabilities position that has deteriorated relative to the comparative figure contained in the previous year's Annual Financial Statements, or the Interim Financial Statements submitted in accordance with F.02 (including, where required, the Supplementary Information) disclose a net liabilities position that has deteriorated relative to the comparative figure at the preceding Statutory Closing Date.

- (3) Future Financial Information must cover the period commencing immediately after the later of the Statutory Closing Date of the Annual Financial Statements or, if applicable, the balance sheet date of the Interim Financial Statements, and it must cover at least the entire Licensing Season.
- (4) Future Financial Information consists of:
 - (a) a budgeted profit and loss account, with comparative figures for the immediately preceding Financial Year and Interim Period (if applicable);
 - (b) a budgeted cash flow, with comparative figures for the immediately preceding Financial Year and Interim Period (if applicable); and
 - (c) explanatory notes, including a brief description of each of the significant assumptions (with reference to the relevant aspects of Historic Financial Information) that have been used to prepare the budgeted profit and loss account and cash flow statement, as well as of the key risks that may affect the future financial results.
- (5) Future Financial Information must be prepared, as a minimum, on a quarterly basis.
- (6) Future Financial Information must be prepared on a consistent basis with the audited Annual Financial Statements and follow the same Accounting Policies as those applied for the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements, except for accounting policy changes made after the date of the most recent Annual Financial Statements that are to be reflected in the next Annual Financial Statements, in which case details must be disclosed.
- (7) Future Financial Information must meet the minimum disclosure requirements as set out in the AFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook. Additional line items or notes must be included if they provide clarification or if their omission would make the Future Financial Information misleading.
- (8) Future Financial Information with the assumptions upon which they are based must be approved by management and this must be evidenced by way of a brief statement and signature on behalf of the executive body of the Reporting Entity.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.07M	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	ANNUAL BUDGET

The Licence Applicant must submit its annual Budget before the start of the season. It should state the following:

- (a) projected income for the coming Financial Year;
- (b) projected expenditure for the coming Financial Year;
- (c) all the sources of revenues and income projected for the coming Financial Year along with the amount; and
- (d) all the sources of expenditures projected for the coming Financial Year along with the amount.

SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION

Criteria F.08 and F.09 apply to Licensees after the licensing decision. Criterion F.08 applies to all Licensees. Criterion F.09 only applies to those Licensees who exhibited a breach of one or more of the indicators.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.08	A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	DUTY TO NOTIFY SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

(1) Following the licensing decision by the decision-making body, the Licensee must promptly notify Football Australia in writing about any Subsequent Events that may cast significant doubt upon the Licensee's ability to continue as a Going Concern until at least the end of the season for which the Licence has been granted.

(2) Compliance with this criterion shall be assessed by Football Australia in respect of the following Licensing Cycle.

NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.09	N/A	ACL Elite: A ACL Two: A	DUTY TO UPDATE FUTURE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(1) If the Licensee is in breach of one or more of the below indicators, then the Licensee must prepare and submit an updated version of the Future Financial Information (prepared according to F.06). In addition, the prepared information shall include a comparison of Budget to actual figures including explanations of variances. The updated version of the Future Financial Information must be prepared, as a minimum, on a six (6) month basis.

(a) Indicator 1: Going Concern

The auditor's report in respect of the Annual or Interim Financial Statements submitted in accordance with F.01M and F.02 includes an emphasis of matter or a qualified opinion/conclusion in respect of Going Concern.

(b) Indicator 2: Negative Equity

The Annual Financial Statements (including, where required, the Supplementary Information) submitted in accordance with F.01M disclose a net liabilities position that has deteriorated relative to the comparative figure contained in the previous year's Annual Financial Statements, or the Interim Financial Statements submitted in accordance with F.02 (including, where required, the Supplementary Information) disclose a net liabilities position that has deteriorated relative to the comparative figure at the preceding Statutory Closing Date.

- (2) The updated Future Financial Information shall meet the minimum disclosure requirements set out in the AFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook.
- (3) Compliance with this criterion shall be assessed by Football Australia in respect of the following Licensing Cycle.

Annexure 3: AFC & A-League Women Core Process Timeline 2026

DATE	ACTION
Thursday, 5 February 2026	FA Licensing Manager to distribute Invitation Letter and Licensing packs to Licence Applicants.
Thursday, 5 March 2026	Final date for Clubs to submit Personnel/Admin Criteria: P.01 - P.18W
Thursday, 19 March 2026	Final date for Clubs to submit Personnel/Admin Criteria: S.02W – S.13
Thursday, 9 April 2026	Final date for Clubs to submit Financial and Infrastructure Criteria: I.01W – I.06W, F.03W, F.04W.
Thursday, 23 April 2026	Final date for Clubs to submit Financial Criteria: F.01W, F.02W, F.06W, F.07W
Thursday, 30 April 2026	Final Date for Clubs to submit Legal Criteria and Personnel/Admin Criteria: L.01 – L.07 & L.10
Monday, 7 May 2026	Final date for Clubs to submit Financial Criterion: F.05
Thursday, 14 May 2026	FA FIB to make decision on awarding of Licences to Licence Applicants for AFC Women and A-League Women Licence.
Monday, 18 May 2026	FA Licensing Manager to advise Clubs of FA FIB's decision
Friday, 22 May 2026	Deadline for Licence Applicants to file a request for appeal from the determination of the FA FIB.
Thursday, 28 May 2026	FA A&ECB to issue final determination on any appeals made from the decisions of the FA FIB for AFC Women and A-League Women Licence.
Within two (2) weeks of the FA A&ECB meeting, or as otherwise determined by FA in its sole and absolute discretion.	FA D&EC to determine and issue Club Licensing Sanctions resulting from Club Licensing Breaches.
Friday, 29 May 2026	FA notifies AFC of List of Licensing Decisions
No Set Deadline - Throughout Licensing Season As Required	L.08, L.09, F.08, F.09 (updates as necessary)

Annexure 4: AFC & A-League Women Criteria 2026

NOTE: For this Annexure 4, the AFC Criteria Grade and Criteria language are included for updated reference purposes, as the 2026 Licensing Cycle will license Clubs to remain eligible to participate in the A-League Women and is recommended by AFC to be completed to enter the AWCL.

SPORTING CRITERIA – WOMEN

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.02W	C	1	A	WOMEN'S YOUTH TEAMS
(1) The Licence Applicant must have at least one U15 or U16 or U17 women's youth team. (2) Each women's youth team must take part in official competitions or programs played at national, regional or local level and recognised by Football Australia.				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.03W	A	2	A	MEDICAL CARE OF WOMEN'S PLAYERS

A-LEAGUE CRITERIA:

- (1) The Licence Applicant shall provide all players registered in the Club with full access to medical support services. These shall include, but are not limited to the following:
 - (a) yearly medical examination, including cardiovascular screening for all its players in its first team; and
 - (b) comprehensive medical insurance coverage for all its players in its first squad.

AFC CRITERIA – ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT:

- (2) The Licence Applicant shall provide a yearly medical examination for all players above the age of 12.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.04	A	N/A	N/A	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
(1) The Licence Applicant must ensure that players and all technical coaching staff of at least the first team have attended a session or an event related to:				

- (a) sports integrity matters;
- (b) IFAB Laws of the Game;
- (c) doping control; and
- (d) other topics as required by the AFC.

(2) These sessions or events must be provided either by the Licence Applicant, Football Australia or a third party in collaboration with the Licence Applicant / Football Australia, during the year prior to the Season to be Licensed.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.05W	A	3	A	REGISTRATION OF WOMEN'S PLAYERS

All the Licence Applicant's players, including any youth players above the age of 12, must be registered with Football Australia and/or its affiliated league in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.06	B	N/A	N/A	RACIAL EQUALITY PRACTICE

(1) The Licence Applicant must establish a policy to tackle racism in football.

(2) All players and staff of the Licence Applicant shall acknowledge the policy by signing the policy document.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.07	B	N/A	N/A	GRASSROOTS PROGRAMS

(1) Children, youths, amateurs, veterans, those with learning or physical disabilities and the socially disadvantaged shall be included in the grassroots programs.

(2) The main objectives of the Licence Applicant's grassroots football program shall be to encourage mass participation, stimulating greater interest in the game, providing more opportunities for social inclusion, supporting healthy lifestyles and the development of young people, both the sporting and educational aspects.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.08	B	N/A	N/A	CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Licence Applicant must establish and apply measures, in line with any relevant AFC policies and guidelines, the FA Member Protection Framework and the FA Safeguarding Policy, to protect and safeguard children from potential abuses and to promote their wellbeing within football when participating in activities organised by the Licence Applicant. (2) The Licence Applicant should work with locally based child protection expertise and have a child safeguarding officer / Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) within its administration to develop and implement such measures, including having a child safeguarding policy. (3) The Licence Applicant must abide by the relevant child protection legislation in each state/territory. 				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.10	C	N/A	N/A	CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) PROGRAMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Licence Applicant should establish strategies and implementation programs to promote the Club, the game and to address current issues in football and society. (2) Support should be provided for initiatives and campaigns to implement strategies and programs as promulgated by either the Licence Applicant, Football Australia, AFC and FIFA. (3) Such programs connect and create links with the community which will facilitate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) establishment and enlargement of their fan base; (b) creation of a pool of volunteers; (c) organisation of grassroots football activities, initiatives and events for and within the community; (d) creation of strong links with the community; and (e) creation of a market base for branding, merchandising, sponsors and commercial partners. 				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.11	C	N/A	N/A	CLUB YOUTH ACADEMY

The Licence Applicant should establish a Club Youth Academy with the required infrastructure and facilities as prescribed in the AFC Elite Youth Scheme.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.12	C	N/A	N/A	DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Licence Applicant should establish a policy that addresses diversity and inclusion within its Club. (2) All players and staff of the Licence Applicant must be aware of and have access to the policy.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.13	C	N/A	N/A	MARKETING PLAN / STRATEGY <p>The Licence Applicant should establish a comprehensive Marketing Plan / Strategy.</p>

INFRASTRUCTURE CRITERIA – WOMEN

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.01W	A	4	A	APPROVED STADIUM(S)

A-LEAGUE CRITERIA:

- (1) The Licence Applicant must have a Stadium (or Stadiums) available to play A-League Women's matches. The Licence Applicant either:
 - (a) owns the Stadium(s); or
 - (b) can provide a written contract with the owner of the Stadium(s) it will use. This contract must guarantee the use of the Stadium(s) for the A-League matches for the coming season.
- (2) The Stadium(s) must meet the requirements expressly referred to by the A-League Women Competition Regulations, including but not limited to the A-Leagues CPP – Events and Venue Operations.
- (3) The Stadium(s) must be located in the same city where the Licence Applicant is based. If the Stadium is not located in the Licence Applicant's same city, a justifiable reason should be provided. For the purposes of this I.01W, the "same city" is defined as the greater metropolitan area in which the Licence Applicant is regularly domiciled.

AFC CRITERIA:

- (1) The Licence Applicant must have a Stadium available to play AFC Women's Champions League Matches. The Licence Applicant either:
 - (a) owns the Stadium; or
 - (b) can provide a written contract with the owner of the Stadium it will use. This contract must guarantee the use of the Stadium for the AFC matches for the coming season, for which the Licence Applicant qualifies in sporting terms.
- (2) The Stadium must meet the requirement expressly referred to by the:
 - (a) AFC Stadium Regulations;
 - (b) respective AFC Club Competition regulations;
 - (c) AFC Competition Operations Manual; and
 - (d) any other applicable AFC rules and regulations.
- (3) The Stadium must be approved by the Licensor and located in the same city where the Licence Applicant is based. If the Stadium is not located in the Licence Applicant's base city, a justifiable reason should be provided.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.02W	A	N/A	N/A	STADIUM(S) – SAFETY CERTIFICATION
<p>(1) The Stadium(s) must be certified for safety. The certification is defined according to national/local law and must include provisions related to safety. If such law does not exist, the Licensor (Football Australia) shall establish the content of the Stadium certificate and the procedure in close cooperation with the appropriate body/bodies (e.g. local safety and security authorities, the local hospital, fire brigade, police, etc.)</p> <p>(2) The certificate and accompanying documentation must provide at least the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) safety status of the Stadium structure and building fitness; (b) compliance statement regarding the safety/security regulations of the competent civil authority; (c) approval of the entire Stadium capacity (individual seats, terraces, total number); (d) approved evacuation plan which ensures that the whole Stadium can be emptied in a case of emergency according to the applicable national law; (e) a colour-coded floor plan diagram showing the possible evacuation routes should be prominently displayed in the Stadium; and (f) an approved match security plan covering the organisational measures intended to ensure safety and security strategy covering all aspects of the organisation of a football match, such as ticket distribution system, screening of spectators, segregation strategy, crowd dispersal strategy, medical service, measures taken in case of fire, loss of power supply, or other emergency. 				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.03W	A	N/A	N/A	STADIUM(S) – APPROVED EVACUATION PLAN
<p>(1) The Stadium(s) must have an approved Evacuation Plan. The appropriate body (e.g. safety and security authority, competent civil authority or other qualified and approved firms, etc.) shall approve the evacuation plan, which ensures that the whole Stadium can be emptied in case of emergency according to the applicable national and/or state law.</p> <p>(2) If such law does not exist, the Licensor (Football Australia) establishes the content of the evacuation plan, including an evacuation time and the approval body, in close cooperation with the appropriate civil body (e.g. local safety and security authorities, the local hospital, fire brigade, police, etc.)</p> <p>(3) A colour-coded floor plan diagram showing the possible evacuation routes shall be developed and prominently displayed in the Stadium(s).</p>				

(4) A Risk Analysis specific to the Stadium(s) shall be conducted.

(5) The Safety and Security Officer, stewards and Club and Stadium employees shall be briefed on the evacuation plan.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.04W	A	5	A	TRAINING FACILITIES – AVAILABILITY
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have Training Facilities available throughout the year. The Licence Applicant either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) owns the Training Facilities; or (b) can provide a written contract with the owner of the Training Facilities. <p>(2) It must be guaranteed that the Training Facilities can be used by all teams of the Licence Applicant during the Licensing Season, taking into account its youth development program.</p>				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.05W	B	N/A	N/A	TRAINING FACILITIES FOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT – MINIMUM INFRASTRUCTURE
<p>As a minimum, the infrastructure of the Training Facilities for Player Development must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) outdoor Training Facilities; (b) indoor Training Facilities; (c) dressing rooms; and (d) medical room(s) or direct access to first aid at the training site. 				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.06W	B	N/A	N/A	STADIUM(S) – GROUND RULES
<p>(1) The Stadium(s) must have the ground rules affixed to it and visible to the spectators. These rules must provide information on at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) admission rights; (b) abandonment or postponement of events; 				

- (c) description of prohibitions and penalties, such as entering the field of play, throwing objects, use of foul or abusive language, racist behaviour, etc.;
- (d) restrictions with regard to smoking, alcohol, fireworks, banners, etc.;
- (e) seating rules; and
- (f) causes for ejection from the ground.

(2) As outlined in the FA National Code of Conduct and Ethics, the Licence Applicant must ensure the FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced in relation to all attendees. The Licence Applicant is responsible and liable for the conduct of its supporters.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CRITERIA – WOMEN

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.01	A	6	A	CLUB SECRETARIAT
(1) The Licence Applicant must have an office space sufficiently spacious to run its administration with the required infrastructure. (2) The Licence Applicant must have appointed adequate number of skilled secretarial staff according to its needs to run its daily business. (3) It must ensure that its office is open to communicate with Football Australia and the public and that it is equipped, as a minimum, with phone, email facilities and a website.				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.02W	A	7	A	ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER
The Licence Applicant must have appointed a manager who is responsible for running its operative matters linked to women's football.				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.03	A	N/A	N/A	FINANCE OFFICER
(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Finance Officer being responsible for its financial matters. (2) The Finance Officer must hold, as a minimum, one of the following qualifications: (a) a degree in accountancy, finance or related field; or (b) a "recognition of competence" issued by an organisation recognised by Football Australia.				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.04	A	N/A	N/A	SAFETY AND SECURITY OFFICER
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Safety and Security Officer being responsible for safety and security matters.</p> <p>(2) The Safety and Security Officer must hold, as a minimum, one of the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a certificate as a policeman or security person according to national law; or (b) a safety and security diploma based on a specific course issued by Football Australia or by a state-recognised organisation; or (c) a "recognition of competence" approved by Football Australia, which is based on the participation in specific safety and security course of FA and at least one (1) year experience in such matters. <p>(3) The Safety and Security Officer must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p>				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.05	A	N/A	N/A	MEDIA OFFICER
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Media Officer being responsible for media matters.</p> <p>(2) The Media Officer must hold, as a minimum, one of the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a diploma in journalism, communications, media or related field; (b) concluded a media officer education course provided by Football Australia or an organisation recognised by Football Australia; or (c) a "recognition of competence" approved by Football Australia, which requires at least one (1) year experience in such matters. <p>(3) The Media Officer must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p>				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.06W	A	8	A	TEAM DOCTOR – WOMEN’S TEAM

A-LEAGUE CRITERIA:

- (1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed at least one doctor who is responsible for medical support of the women’s first team during matches and training as well as for doping prevention.
- (2) The qualification of the Team Doctor must be recognised by the appropriate national health authorities.
- (3) The Team Doctor must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.

AFC CRITERIA - SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENT:

- (4) A minimum of one (1) personnel amongst the Team Doctor and Physiotherapist must be female.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.07W	A	9	A	PHYSIOTHERAPIST – WOMEN’S TEAM

A-LEAGUE CRITERIA:

- (1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed at least one physiotherapist who is responsible for medical treatment and massages for the women’s first team during trainings and matches.
- (2) The qualification of the Physiotherapist must be recognised by the appropriate national health authorities.
- (3) The Physiotherapist must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.

AFC CRITERIA - SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENT:

- (4) A minimum of one (1) personnel amongst the Team Doctor and Physiotherapist must be female.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.08W	A	10	A	HEAD COACH OF WOMEN'S FIRST TEAM
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Head Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence responsible for all football matters of the first team.</p> <p>(2) The Head Coach must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least the Minimum Coach Requirement (MCR) as stipulated by the AFC Competition Operations Manual or the A-League Competition Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) for AFC, the current MCR is benchmarked at the AFC "A" Coaching Certificate or its equivalence recognised and approved by AFC; (ii) for the A-League Women, the current requirement is benchmarked at the AFC or UEFA "A" Diploma licence; or (b) hold a Recognition of Experience and Current Competence (RECC) issued by AFC in compliance with the RECC regulations for cases where the Head Coach of the first team does not have the required certification as defined under (a) above or; (c) already have started the required education course, recognised by AFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above. <p>(3) The Head Coach must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p> <p>(4) The Head Coach must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant (or another entity within the legal group structure of the licence applicant). The Licence Applicant must ensure that the contract is in line with the relevant provisions of the FIFA RSTP.</p>				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.09W	A	N/A	N/A	ASSISTANT COACH OF FIRST TEAM
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint an Assistant Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence responsible for assisting the Head Coach in all football technical matters of the first team.</p> <p>(2) The Assistant Coach must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least the minimum qualification of an AFC or UEFA "B" Diploma licence, as stipulated by the A-League Competition Regulations; or (b) hold a Recognition of Experience and Current Competence (RECC) issued by AFC in compliance with the RECC regulations for cases where the Head Coach of the first team does not have the required certification as defined under (a) above; or (c) already have started the required education course, recognised by AFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above. <p>(3) The Assistant Coach must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p>				

(4) The Assistant Coach must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant (or another entity within the legal group structure of the licence applicant). The Licence Applicant must ensure that the contract is in line with the relevant provisions of the FIFA RSTP.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.10	C	N/A	N/A	HEAD OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Head of Youth Development (HYD) with a valid coaching diploma/licence responsible for managing and implementing all aspects of youth development matters including the Youth Development Program (YDP).</p> <p>(2) The Head of the Youth Development must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least the AFC "A" diploma/licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by AFC; or (b) already have started the required education course, recognised by AFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above; (c) have specific youth coaching experience and/or supplementary certification/qualification related to coaching and managing young players; and (d) have strong management and administration skills to ensure the efficient implementation of the program, activities, roles and duties in collaboration with other relevant personnel. <p>(3) The Head of Youth Development must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p>				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.11W	C	11	A	WOMEN'S YOUTH COACH
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed at least one qualified coach who is responsible for all football matters related to the youth team(s) as defined under AFC Criteria 1 / A-League Criteria S.02W.</p> <p>(2) The Youth Coach must hold the minimum qualifications as defined by Football Australia, which should not be below an AFC "B" coaching certificate or its equivalence recognised and approved by AFC.</p> <p>(3) The Youth Coach must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant (or another entity within the legal group structure of the licence applicant). The Licence Applicant must ensure that the contract is in line with the relevant provisions of the FIFA RSTP.</p> <p>(4) The Youth Coach must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p>				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.12W	A	N/A	N/A	SAFETY AND SECURITY ORGANISATION - STEWARDING

The Licence Applicant must have engaged qualified stewards to ensure safety and security at home matches. For this purpose, it must:

- (a) employ the stewards; or
- (b) conclude a written contract with the Stadium owner providing the stewards, or an external security company providing stewards.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.13W	A	12	A	RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

The rights, responsibilities and duties of the Licence Applicant's personnel mentioned in these Regulations must be defined in writing.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.14W	A	13	A	DUTY OF REPLACEMENT DURING THE LICENSING SEASON

(1) If a function defined in these Regulations becomes vacant during the Licensing Season, the Licensee must ensure that, within a period of a maximum of sixty (60) days, the function is taken over by someone who holds the required qualification.

(2) In the event that a function becomes vacant due to illness or accident, Football Australia may grant an extension to the sixty (60) day period only if reasonably satisfied that the person concerned is still medically unfit to resume duties.

(3) The occurrence of a vacancy and replacement must be notified to Football Australia within seven (7) working days of the respective event.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.15	C	N/A	N/A	LEGAL ADVISOR

(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a qualified Legal Advisor who is responsible to handle all legal matters in the Licence Applicant's activities.

(2) The Legal Advisor shall have the necessary legal qualifications.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.16	C	N/A	N/A	CLUB TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must employ a Club Technical Director.</p> <p>(2) The Technical Director should have at least an AFC "A" coaching diploma/licence and supplementary qualities like an extensive playing and work experience at the professional club level or have been a long-serving dedicated member of the Club as a player, coach, manager or advisor.</p> <p>(3) The Technical Director must have strong management skills, be visionary and lead the technical development of the Club.</p> <p>(4) The Technical Director shall be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) establish and/or implement Club philosophy; (b) establish Youth and Player Development Structures and Programs; (c) ensure technical standards are maintained and enhanced; (d) monitor and evaluate all technical and developmental programs; (e) talent scouting; (f) management of Club's Youth Academies; (g) recruitment and management of coaches and talent scouts; and (h) management of match analysis processes. <p>(5) The Technical Director must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.</p>				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.17W	B	N/A	N/A	GOALKEEPER COACH OF WOMEN'S FIRST TEAM
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Goalkeeper Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence for the first team.</p> <p>(2) The Goalkeeper Coach must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least the minimum qualification of a "Level 2" Goalkeeping licence, as stipulated by the A-League Competition Regulations; or (b) hold a Recognition of Experience and Current Competence (RECC) issued by AFC in compliance with the RECC regulations for cases where the Goalkeeper Coach does not have the required certification as defined under (a) above; or 				

(c) already have started the required education course, recognised by AFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.
(3) The Goalkeeper Coach must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant (or another entity within the legal group structure of the licence applicant). The Licence Applicant must ensure that the contract is in line with the relevant provisions of the FIFA RSTP.
(4) The Goalkeeper Coach must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.18W	B	N/A	N/A	FITNESS COACH OF WOMEN'S FIRST TEAM

(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Fitness Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence for the first team.
(2) The Fitness Coach must:
(a) hold at least the minimum qualification of an ASCA Level 2 Strength and Conditioning Coach Accreditation (or confirmation of accreditation by ASCA), ESSA Level 2 Accreditation or AFC/FA Football Conditioning Licence, as stipulated by the A-League Competition Regulations; or
(b) hold a Recognition of Experience and Current Competence (RECC) issued by AFC in compliance with the RECC regulations for cases where the Fitness Coach does not have the required certification as defined under (a) above; or
(c) already have started the required education course, recognised by AFC or FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.
(3) The Fitness Coach must be duly registered with Football Australia and/or APL.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.19	B	N/A	N/A	SPORTS PSYCHOLOGIST / WELL-BEING MANAGER

(1) The Licence Applicant must ensure that its registered players have access to a sports psychologist and/or well-being manager who is responsible for delivering confidential psychological support services.

(2) This access may be facilitated by the services provided in conjunction with the PFA.

LEGAL CRITERIA – WOMEN

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.01	A	14	A	DECLARATION IN RESPECT OF THE PARTICIPATION IN AFC AND FA CLUB COMPETITIONS
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must submit a legally-valid declaration confirming that the Licence Applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) recognises as legally-binding the statutes, rules and regulations and decisions of FIFA, the AFC, Football Australia and the Australian Professional Leagues, as well as the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne as provided in the relevant articles of the AFC Statutes; (b) recognises the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (domiciled in Lausanne, Switzerland) for any dispute of international dimension and in particular involving FIFA and/or the AFC; (c) recognises the prohibition on recourse to ordinary courts under the FIFA Statutes, AFC Statutes and the FA Statutes; (d) At national level, it will play in competitions that are recognised and endorsed by Football Australia (e.g. national championship, national cup); (e) At international level, it will participate in competitions recognised and endorsed by the AFC and/or FIFA. To avoid any doubt, this provision does not relate to friendly matches; (f) will abide by and observe the provisions and conditions of the national Club Licensing Regulations; (g) Its reporting perimeter is defined in accordance with Annexure 4: Financial Criteria – Reporting Perimeter of the Regulations and it will be accountable for any consequences of an entity included in the reporting perimeter not abiding by and observing this declaration. (h) All submitted documents are complete and correct; (i) authorises the competent Licensor to examine documents and seek information and, in the event of any appeal procedure, to seek information from any relevant public authority or private body according to national law; and (j) acknowledges that FIFA, the AFC and/or FA reserve the right to execute compliance audits at national level in accordance with clause 12 of the Regulations. <p>(2) This declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three (3) months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to Football Australia.</p>				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.02W	A	16	A	LEGAL DOCUMENTS – WOMEN’S TEAM

The Licence Applicant must submit the following documents:

- (a) a copy of its current company articles, constitution, statutes or similar-type governing document;
- (b) an extract from a public register (e.g. trade register) which demonstrates that the Licence Applicant is a legal entity which contains the following minimum information;
 - (i) registered name;
 - (ii) popular name;
 - (iii) address of headquarters;
 - (iv) legal form;
 - (v) list of authorised signatories; and
 - (vi) type of signature (e.g. individual, collective).
- (c) (If applicable) the agreement between the Licence Applicant and the relevant member which has the right to participate in affiliated competitions of Football Australia.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.03	A	N/A	N/A	OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF CLUBS

(1) To safeguard the integrity of national matches and competitions, Licence Applicants must be committed to ensuring that they conform to the highest ethical and sporting standards regarding matters of ownership and Control.

In this regard, the Licence Applicant must comply with the following criteria:

- (a) the Licence Applicant shall not, either directly or indirectly:
 - i. hold or deal in the securities or shares of any other participating club(s) in the same national competition;
 - ii. be a member of any other participating club(s) in the same national competition;
 - iii. be involved in any capacity whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other participating club(s) in the same national competition; and/or
 - iv. have any power whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other participating club(s) in the same national competition,

if there is a material risk that this would actually or potentially jeopardise the integrity of the national competition;

- (b) No one connected to the Licence Applicant shall simultaneously be involved, either directly or indirectly, in any capacity whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of the Licence Applicant and any other participating club(s) in the same national competition, if there is a material risk that this would actually or potentially jeopardise the integrity of the national competition.
- (c) No individual or legal entity connected to the Licence Applicant shall have Control or influence over any other participating club(s) in the same national competition, if there is a material risk that this would actually or potentially jeopardise the integrity of the national competition. In assessing whether or not Control or influence exists in this context, the following factors shall be taken into account:
 - i. holding a majority of the shareholders' voting rights in the relevant clubs;
 - ii. having the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management, or supervisory body of the relevant clubs;
 - iii. being a shareholder and alone controlling a majority of the shareholders' voting rights pursuant to an agreement entered into with other shareholders of the relevant clubs; and/or
 - iv. being able to exercise by any means a decisive influence in the decision-making of the relevant clubs.

(2) The Licence Applicant shall submit a legally valid and binding declaration outlining the ownership structure and Control mechanism of the club, and confirming its compliance with the criteria set out above. If the Licence Applicant considers that it may contravene any of the criteria, this should be explained in the declaration (with evidence). The declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three (3) months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to the Licenser.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.04	A	N/A	N/A	LEGAL GROUP STRUCTURE AND ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

- (1) The Licence Applicant must provide Football Australia (FA) with information on the legal Group structure at the Statutory Closing Date prior to the deadline for the submission of the application to FA. It must be presented in a chart and duly approved by management. FA must be informed of any changes there may have been to the legal Group structure during the period between the Statutory Closing Date and the submission of the chart to FA.
- (2) This document must clearly identify and include information on:
 - (a) the Licence Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of Football Australia;

- (b) any Subsidiary of the Licence Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of Football Australia;
- (c) any Associate entity of the Licence Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of Football Australia;
- (d) any direct or indirect Controlling entity of the Licence Applicant, up to and including the ultimate Controlling party;
- (e) any party that has 10% or greater direct or indirect ownership of the Licence Applicant, or 10% or greater voting rights;
- (f) any party with a Significant Influence over the Licence Applicant;
- (g) any other football club, in respect of which any of the parties identified in (a) to (f) or any of their key management personnel have any ownership interest, voting rights, and/or any involvement or influence whatsoever in relation to the governance of its financial and operating policies; and
- (h) The reporting perimeter as defined in Annexure 4: Financial Criteria – Reporting Perimeter must also be clearly identified in the document.

(3) If deemed relevant, FA may request the Licence Applicant/Licensee to provide additional information other than that listed above (e.g. information about any subsidiaries and/or Associates of the ultimate Controlling entity and/or direct Controlling entity).

(4) The following information must be provided in relation to all entities included in the legal Group structure:

- (a) name of legal entity;
- (b) type of legal entity;
- (c) main activity of legal entity; and
- (d) percentage of ownership interest (and, if different, percentage of voting power held).

(5) For any Subsidiary of the Licence Applicant/Licensee and, if different, the Registered Member of Football Australia, the following information must also be provided:

- (a) share capital;
- (b) total assets;
- (c) total revenues; and
- (d) total equity.

(6) Without prejudice to the foregoing, the Licensor shall ensure that it assesses the information provided by the Licence Applicant under Criterion L.04 to determine the accuracy of the Licence Applicant's declaration under Criterion L.03. Accordingly, the Licence Applicant shall ensure that it clearly identifies and includes information regarding its compliance with the various components of the declaration under Criterion L.03 when providing the Licensor with information on its legal Group structure under Criteria L.04.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.05W	A	15	A	WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH WOMEN'S PLAYERS

The professional players of the Licence Applicant must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players (or for amateur players, a valid memorandum of understanding with the Licence Applicant) and shall incorporate all key provisions required by the relevant national law and of FIFA, the AFC and Football Australia.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.06	B	N/A	N/A	DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Licence Applicant must establish a legally binding code of conduct for players and officials in compliance with the relevant national law, and the Statutes of FIFA, the AFC and Football Australia. (2) The code of conduct should be supplemented by a legally binding disciplinary regulation under which the infringement of the code of conduct, Club rules, Club regulations, and Club decisions shall be prosecuted, and sanctions may be applied. 				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.07	A	N/A	N/A	FIT AND PROPER PERSON TEST
<p>The Licence Applicant must submit valid declarations outlining that no:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Director; or (b) Shareholder who meets the reporting threshold of 5% or greater ownership is subject to a Disqualifying Condition. 				

SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION

Criteria L.08 and L.09 apply to all Licensees after the licensing decision.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.08	A	N/A	N/A	UPDATES TO LEGAL DOCUMENTS AND OWNERSHIP / CONTROL OF CLUBS
<p>(1) Following the licensing decision, if a change in the ownership or company structure of the Licensee occurs that meets the reporting threshold, the Licensee must submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) updated legal documents (L.02W and L.03) that disclose the change(s) and (b) an updated Legal Group Structure and Ultimate Controlling Party chart (L.04). <p>(2) The reporting threshold for a change of ownership is met when any entity, trust or individual obtains or procures 5% or greater ownership of the Licensee.</p> <p>(3) The change(s) must be submitted within twenty-one (21) working days of the respective event(s).</p>				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.09	A	N/A	N/A	UPDATES TO FIT AND PROPER PERSON TEST
<p>(1) Following the licensing decision, if a change occurs in the Licensee's Directors or a change occurs in the Licensee's Shareholders that meets the reporting threshold, the Licensee must submit a valid declaration outlining that the new Director or Shareholder is not subject to a Disqualifying Condition.</p> <p>(2) The reporting threshold for a change of ownership is met when any entity, trust or individual obtains 5% or greater ownership of the Licensee.</p> <p>(3) The change(s) must be submitted within twenty-one (21) working days of the respective event(s).</p>				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.10	C	N/A	N/A	BOARD REPRESENTATION
<p>The Licence Applicant's Board of Directors should comply with the 40:40:20 principle: 40% women, 40% men, 20% either.</p>				

FINANCIAL CRITERIA – REPORTING PERIMETER – WOMEN

REPORTING ENTITY/ENTITIES AND REPORTING PERIMETER

- (1) The Licence Applicant determines and provides to the Licensor the reporting perimeter, i.e. the entity or combination of entities in respect of which financial information (e.g. single entity, consolidated or combined financial statements) has to be provided.
- (2) The reporting perimeter must include:
 - (a) the Licence Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of Football Australia;
 - (b) any Subsidiary of the Licence Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of Football Australia;
 - (c) any other entity included in the legal Group structure which generates revenues and/or performs services and/or incurs costs in respect of the football activities defined in paragraphs (3)(c) to (j) below;
 - (d) any entity, irrespective of whether it is included in the legal Group structure, which generates revenues and/or performs services and/or incurs costs in respect of football activities as defined in paragraphs (3)(a) and (b) below.
- (3) Football activities include:
 - (a) employing/engaging personnel (as defined in Criteria F.04W) including payment of all forms of consideration to employees arising from contractual or legal obligations;
 - (b) acquiring/selling players' registrations (including loans);
 - (c) ticketing;
 - (d) sponsorship and advertising;
 - (e) broadcasting;
 - (f) merchandising and hospitality;
 - (g) club operations (e.g. administration, matchday activities, travel, scouting, etc.);
 - (h) financing (including financing secured or pledged against the assets of the Licence Applicant);
 - (i) use and management of Stadium and Training Facilities; and
 - (j) youth sector.
- (4) An entity may be excluded from the reporting perimeter only if:
 - (a) its activities are entirely unrelated to the football activities defined in paragraph c) above and/or the locations, assets or brand of the football club; or
 - (b) it is immaterial compared with all the entities that form the reporting perimeter, and it does not perform any of the football activities defined in paragraph (3)(a) and (b) above; or
 - (c) the football activities it performs are already entirely reflected in the financial statements of one of the entities included in the reporting perimeter.
- (5) The Licence Applicant must submit a declaration by an authorised signatory which confirms:

- (a) that all revenues and costs related to each of the football activities indicated in paragraph (3) have been included in the reporting perimeter and provide a detailed explanation should this not be the case; and
- (b) whether any entity included in the legal Group structure has been excluded from the reporting perimeter, justifying any such exclusion with reference to paragraph (4) immediately above.

For further information on mandatory reporting period and minimum requirements on the format of reporting and accounting as well as detailed explanation of each of the criterion below, please refer to the Football Australia Club Licensing Manual (which is promulgated by Football Australia from time to time and may be made available again on request), the AFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook and/or the AFC Financial Handbook Reference Library (both of which are available on the AFC's website).

FINANCIAL CRITERIA – WOMEN

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.01W	A	17	A	ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - AUDITED
<p>(1) Regardless of the legal structure of the Licence Applicant, Annual Financial Statements based on the local legislation for incorporated companies shall be prepared and Audited by an Independent Auditor.</p> <p>(2) The Audited Annual Financial Statements submitted shall be in respect of the Statutory Closing Date immediately prior to the deadline for submission of the List of Licensing Decisions to AFC (i.e. FY2025 for the 2026 cycle). The statements must consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a balance sheet; (b) a profit and loss account; (c) a cash flow statement; (d) notes, comprising a summary of significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory notes; and (e) a financial review by management. <p>(3) These Audited Financial Statements shall meet the minimum disclosure requirements and accounting principles defined by the AFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook.</p> <p>(4) If the Audited Financial Statements do not meet the minimum disclosure requirements and accounting principles defined by the AFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook, then Supplementary Information must be prepared by the Licence Applicant and assessed by the auditor.</p> <p>(5) For the A-League Women Licence only, if draft financial statements and an auditor engagement letter confirming statements are in the process of completion is submitted by the fulfil deadline, the criteria may be considered fulfilled but additional sanctions (as per the list of sanctions in the FA Constitution) above and beyond the minimum sanction for late submissions may apply.</p>				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.03W	A	19	A	NO OVERDUE PAYABLES TOWARDS FOOTBALL CLUBS ARISING FROM TRANSFER ACTIVITIES

A-LEAGUE CRITERIA:

The Licence Applicant must prove that it has no overdue payables towards football Clubs arising from transfer activities as at 31 December preceding the Season to be Licensed, unless by the following 31 March they have been fully settled, deferred by mutual agreement with the creditor or are subject to a not obviously unfounded dispute submitted to a competent authority.

AFC CRITERIA:

The Licence Applicant must prove that it has no overdue payables towards football Clubs, employees and social/tax authorities, as set out in Article 20 F.03 and F.04 of the AFC Club Licensing Regulations. For the purpose of this provision, the term "employees" includes all professional players according to the applicable FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players as well as the administrative, technical and medical staff under the AFC Personnel and Administrative Criteria 7-11.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.04W	A	19	A	NO OVERDUE PAYABLES TOWARDS EMPLOYEES AND SOCIAL/TAX AUTHORITIES

A-LEAGUE CRITERIA:

- (1) The Licence Applicant must prove that, in respect of contractual and legal obligations with its current/former employees and social/tax authorities it has no overdue payables at 31 December preceding the Season to be Licensed, unless by the following 31 March they have been fully settled, deferred by mutual agreement with the creditor or are subject to a not obviously unfounded dispute submitted to a competent authority.
- (2) The term "employees" shall include but not be limited to:
 - (a) all professional players according to the applicable FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of players; and
 - (b) the administrative, technical, medical and security staff specified in the FA Club Licensing Regulations.

AFC CRITERIA:

The Licence Applicant must prove that it has no overdue payables towards football Clubs, employees and social/tax authorities, as set out in Article 20 F.03 and F.04 of the AFC Club Licensing Regulations. For the purpose of this provision, the term "employees" includes all professional players according to the applicable FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players as well as the administrative, technical and medical staff under the AFC Personnel and Administrative Criteria 7-11.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.05	A	N/A	N/A	WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS PRIOR TO THE LICENSING DECISION
<p>(1) Within seven (7) days prior to the date on which the licensing decision is to be made by the First Instance Body, the Licence Applicant must make written representations to Football Australia.</p> <p>(2) The written representations shall confirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) That all documents submitted to the Licensor are complete and correct; (b) Whether or not any Significant Change in relation to all the licensing Criteria has occurred; (c) Whether or not any Events or Conditions of Major Economic importance have occurred that may have an adverse impact on the Licence Applicant's financial position since the balance sheet date of the preceding Audited Annual Financial Statements or Reviewed Interim Financial Statements (if applicable). If any Events or Conditions of Major Economic Importance have occurred, the management representations letter must include a description of the nature of the event or condition and an estimate of its financial effect, or a statement that such an estimate cannot be made; and (d) Whether or not the Licence Applicant (or the Registered Member of Football Australia which has a contractual relationship with the Licence Applicant within the meaning of clause 7.1) or any Parent company of the Licence Applicant included in the reporting perimeter is seeking or has received protection from its creditors pursuant to laws or regulations within the 12 months preceding the Licensing Season. <p>(3) Approval by management must be evidenced by way of a signature on behalf of the executive body of the Licence Applicant.</p>				

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.06	A	N/A	N/A	FUTURE FINANCIAL INFORMATION
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must prepare and submit Future Financial Information in order to demonstrate to Football Australia its ability to continue as a Going Concern until the end of the Licensing Season if it has breached any of the indicators defined in (2) below.</p> <p>(2) If a Licence Applicant exhibits any of the conditions described by indicator 1 or 2, it is considered in breach of the indicator:</p> <p>(a) Indicator 1: Going Concern</p> <p>The auditor's report in respect of the Annual Financial Statements submitted in accordance with F.01W includes an emphasis of matter or a qualified opinion/conclusion in respect of Going Concern.</p> <p>(b) Indicator 2: Negative Equity</p> <p>The Annual Financial Statements (including, where required, the Supplementary Information) submitted in accordance with F.01W disclose a net liabilities position that has deteriorated relative to the comparative figure contained in the previous year's Annual Financial Statements.</p> <p>(3) Future Financial Information must cover the period commencing immediately after the Statutory Closing Date of the Annual Financial Statements and it must cover at least the entire Licensing Season.</p> <p>(4) Future Financial Information consists of:</p> <p>(a) a budgeted profit and loss account, with comparative figures for the immediately preceding Financial Year;</p> <p>(b) a budgeted cash flow, with comparative figures for the immediately preceding Financial Year; and</p> <p>(c) explanatory notes, including a brief description of each of the significant assumptions (with reference to the relevant aspects of Historic Financial Information) that have been used to prepare the budgeted profit and loss account and cash flow statement, as well as of the key risks that may affect the future financial results.</p> <p>(5) Future Financial Information must be prepared, as a minimum, on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>(6) Future Financial Information must be prepared on a consistent basis with the audited Annual Financial Statements and follow the same Accounting Policies as those applied for the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements, except for accounting policy changes made after the date of the most recent Annual Financial Statements that are to be reflected in the next Annual Financial Statements, in which case details must be disclosed.</p> <p>(7) Future Financial Information must meet the minimum disclosure requirements as set out in the AFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook. Additional line items or notes must be included if they provide clarification or if their omission would make the Future Financial Information misleading.</p>				

(8) Future Financial Information with the assumptions upon which they are based must be approved by management and this must be evidenced by way of a brief statement and signature on behalf of the executive body of the Reporting Entity.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.07W	A	18	A	ANNUAL BUDGET – WOMEN'S
<p>The Licence Applicant must submit its annual Budget before the start of the season. It should state the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) projected income for the coming Financial Year; (b) projected expenditure for the coming Financial Year; (c) all the sources of revenues and income projected for the coming Financial Year along with the amount; and (d) all the sources of expenditures projected for the coming Financial Year along with the amount. 				

SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION

Criteria F.08 applies to all Licensees after the licensing decision.

ALW NO.	A-LEAGUE CRITERIA GRADE	AFC NO.	AFC CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.08	A	N/A	N/A	DUTY TO NOTIFY SUBSEQUENT EVENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Following the licensing decision by the decision-making body, the Licensee must promptly notify Football Australia in writing about any Subsequent Events that may cast significant doubt upon the Licensee's ability to continue as a Going Concern until at least the end of the season for which the Licence has been granted. (2) Compliance with this criterion shall be assessed by Football Australia in respect of the following Licensing Cycle. 				

Annexure 5: Table of Minimum Sanctions

No.	Type of Club Licensing Breach	Minimum Sanction
1.	Unfulfilled "B" Criterion (except P.18M unfulfilled as it relates to the AFC qualification)	\$5,000 per criterion
2.	Submission of documentation, materials or evidence required for the satisfaction of criteria after the submit deadline outlined in the applicable Core Process	\$1,000 per criterion
3.	Failure to cooperate with the Licensing Administration	\$15,000
4.	Three (3) or more unfulfilled "B" Criteria in the same Licensing Cycle (except P.18M unfulfilled as it relates to the AFC qualification)	\$7,500 per criterion
5.	Same "B" Criterion not fulfilled for two (2) consecutive Licensing Cycles (except P.18M unfulfilled as it relates to the AFC qualification)	\$10,000 per criterion
6.	P.18M unfulfilled as it relates to the AFC qualification	Reprimand

Annexure 6: Club Licensing Fit and Proper Person Test

National Club Licensing Regulations Fit and Proper Person Test

1. Purpose

To set out the Fit and Proper Person Test (**FPPT**) as contemplated by the Football Australia National Club Licensing Regulations.

2. Defined Terms

Defined terms that are not set out in clause 6 of this Annexure 6 have the meaning given to them in the Football Australia National Club Licensing Regulations.

3. Application of FPPT

Each License Applicant

3.1 Pursuant to the National Club Licensing Regulations, each Licence Applicant must ensure that:

- (a) by 30 April of each year (or such other date notified by FA from time to time), each Director and each Shareholder of that Licence Applicant satisfies the FPPT by providing a valid Declaration to FA confirming that they are not subject to a Disqualifying Condition; and
- (b) each time the License Applicant:
 - (i) appoints a new Director of that Licence Applicant; or
 - (ii) there is a change in the Licence Applicant's ownership that results in a new Shareholder of that Licence Applicant; or
 - (iii) a person or Entity with an existing ownership interest in that Licence Applicant becoming a Shareholder of that Licence Applicant,

each such Director or Shareholder of that Licence Applicant must also satisfy the FPPT and provide a valid Declaration to FA confirming that they are not subject to a Disqualifying Condition.

Disqualifying Condition - License Applicant Directors and Shareholders

3.2 If any existing Director or Shareholder of a Licence Applicant becomes at any time subject to a Disqualifying Condition after satisfaction of the FPPT, that Licence Applicant must ensure that that Director and/or Shareholder overcomes that Disqualifying Condition and satisfies the FPPT by providing a valid Declaration to FA confirming that they are not subject to a Disqualifying Condition, or must state the steps that will be taken by the Licence Applicant to ensure that the Director and/or Shareholder will not remain subject to a Disqualifying Condition (which may include the removal of that Director or Shareholder

from the position that gave rise to the Disqualifying Condition), and then take those steps as soon as practicable.

3.3 Each Director and Shareholder of a Licence Applicant that is required to satisfy the FPPT in the circumstances described in this clause 3 shall be referred to in this document as a *Satisfying Party*.

4. FPPT Process

4.1 A Satisfying Party will satisfy the FPPT if in FA's reasonable opinion that Satisfying Party is not subject to a Disqualifying Condition.

4.2 The relevant Licence Applicant must ensure that each Shareholder discloses to FA full details of its ownership structure, including:

- (a) any individual or individuals who ultimately own or Control (directly or indirectly) the Shareholder;
- (b) any corporate entity, trust or individual that owns more than 5% of the Shareholder;
- (c) any individual or individuals who ultimately own or Control (directly or indirectly) more than 5% of the Shareholder;
- (d) any individual that is an ultimate beneficiary of any trust, or a series of trusts, where that trust owns more than 5% of the Shareholder; and
- (e) if requested by FA, details regarding the source of any funding or finance in respect of the transaction giving rise to the change in Licence Applicant's ownership.

4.3 The relevant Licence Applicant must ensure that each Satisfying Party provides a Declaration confirming that the Satisfying Party:

- (a) does not have any reason to believe that such Satisfying Party does not comply with the FPPT;
- (b) has not provided any false, misleading or inaccurate information in the Declaration; and
- (c) has answered the questions in the Declaration truthfully and that the information provided by the Satisfying Party is true and accurate in every particular.

4.4 On receipt of a Declaration (and any accompanying information and documentation), FA will determine whether in its reasonable opinion the relevant Satisfying Party satisfies the FPPT or is subject to a Disqualifying Condition. If FA requires further information or evidence from the Licence Applicant or the relevant Satisfying Party to determine whether the FPPT has been satisfied, the Licence Applicant must ensure that it and the relevant Satisfying Party promptly provides such information or evidence to FA.

4.5 If it is found or determined that a Satisfying Party meets a Disqualifying Condition at any time, then the relevant Licence Applicant must ensure that the relevant Satisfying Party overcomes that Disqualifying Condition and satisfies the FPPT by providing a valid Declaration to FA confirming that they are not subject to a Disqualifying Condition, or must state the steps that will be taken by the Licence Applicant to ensure that the Satisfying Party

will not remain subject to the Disqualifying Condition (which may include the removal of that Satisfying Party from the position that gave rise to the Disqualifying Condition), and then take those steps as soon as practicable, failing which, the matter shall be addressed in accordance with the requirements of clauses 8 and 13 of the National Club Licensing Regulations.

5. Other persons who must satisfy FPPT

- 5.1 FA has the discretion, acting reasonably, to determine at any time, by written notice to a Licence Applicant, that a person or persons connected to a Licence Applicant, or a Shareholder of that Licence Applicant must meet, as a Satisfying Party, some or all of the requirements of the FPPT as set out in this document. The notice must set out the reasons and/or basis on which FA has determined any such person must meet the FPPT.
- 5.2 In addition, if at any time FA reasonably believes that a Disqualifying Condition applies, or is reasonably likely to apply to a Satisfying Party, then they may request that a Licence Applicant and/or the Satisfying Party provides reasonably requested information to determine if the Satisfying Party is subject to a Disqualifying Condition.

6. Definitions

In this Annexure:

Associate

means, in relation to an individual, any other individual who is:

- (a) the spouse or civil partner of that individual;
- (b) a relative of that individual or of their spouse or civil partner; or
- (c) the spouse or civil partner of a relative of that individual or of their spouse or civil partner.

Competing Sporting Organisation

means, any Australian sports governing body, sporting organisation, or ongoing competition or league that is based in Australia and competes with Football in Australia, including Cricket Australia, the Australian Football League, the National Rugby League and Rugby Australia.

Connected Person

means any person or Entity that directly or indirectly possesses or is entitled to acquire more than 50% per cent of:

- (a) the issued ordinary share capital of a company; or
- (b) the assets of a company which would be available for distribution to equity holders in the event of winding up of the company.

Control

means the power of a person or Entity to exercise, or to be able to exercise or acquire, direct control over the policies, affairs and/or management of an Entity, whether that power is constituted by rights or contracts (either separately or in combination) and having regard to the considerations of fact or law involved, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, includes:

- (a) the power (whether directly or indirectly and whether by the ownership of share capital, by the possession of voting power, by contract or otherwise) to appoint and/or remove all of the members of the board of directors of the Entity as are able to cast a majority of the votes capable of being cast by the members of that board; and/or
- (b) the holding and/or possession of the beneficial interest in, and/or the ability to exercise the voting rights applicable to, shares or other securities

in the Entity (whether directly, indirectly (by means of holding such interests in one or more other persons) or by contract) which confer in aggregate on the holder(s) thereof 50% per cent or more of the total voting rights exercisable at general meetings of the Entity. For the purposes of the above, any rights or powers of a Nominee for any person or Entity or of an Associate of any person or Entity or of a Connected Person to any person or Entity shall be attributed to that person or Entity.

For the avoidance of doubt, a person acting in the capacity as a member of a board of directors or similar governing body of an Entity is not considered to have Control of such Entity for the purposes hereof because of that membership.

Conviction

means a formal finding made by a court of competent jurisdiction that a person or Entity is guilty beyond reasonable doubt of a criminal offence, whether that finding was made before or after these clauses came into effect, and whether or not that finding is considered to be final pending resolution of any appeal against that finding, and Convicted shall be construed accordingly.

Declaration

means a declaration in the form set out in Schedule B.

Director

means:

- (a) in respect of a Shareholder, any person who is a director of that Shareholder or who has powers in respect of the Shareholder that are usually associated with the powers of a director of a company incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) including a director as defined by section 9 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), a shadow director or a de facto director; or
- (b) in respect of a Licence Applicant, any person who is a director of that Licence Applicant or who has powers in respect of that Licence Applicant that are usually associated with the powers of a director of a company incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) including a director as defined by section 9 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), a shadow director or a de facto director.

**Disqualifying
Condition**

means the circumstances described in Schedule A.

Entity

means any legal entity, firm or incorporated association.

FA Statutes

means FA's Constitution, including any by-laws, as amended from time to time in accordance with its terms, and any other statutes, regulations or policies promulgated by FA, as amended from time to time.

FIFA Statutes

means the FIFA statutes, regulations or policies promulgated by FIFA, as amended from time to time.

Intermediary

means any person who directly or indirectly represents, negotiates on behalf of, is engaged by, advises or otherwise acts for a club or player (other than a solicitor giving professional advice only) in the context of either the registration or transfer of the registration of the player or the employment of a player by a club.

Modern Slavery	means any law, statute and regulation which prohibits exploitation of a worker, human trafficking, slavery, servitude, forced labour, debt bondage, or similar types of conduct, and applicable or otherwise in force in Australia or any foreign jurisdiction to which a Director or Shareholder of a Licence Applicant is subject.
Official	means any director, secretary, servant or representative, excluding any player, Intermediary or auditor.
Shareholder	means any person or Entity that has Control of 5% or more of a Licence Applicant.
Satisfying Party	means each Director and Shareholder of a Licence Applicant described in clause 3 of this document.
Spent Conviction	means a conviction of a Commonwealth, State or Territory or foreign offence that satisfies all of the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) it is 10 years since the date of the conviction (or 5 years for juvenile offenders);(b) the individual was not sentenced to imprisonment or was not sentenced to imprisonment for more than 30 months;(c) the individual has not re-offended during the 10 years (5 years for juvenile offenders) waiting period; and(d) a statutory or prescribed exclusion does not apply, but excluding any conviction related to fraud, money laundering, child safety, sexual assault and/or match fixing.

Schedule A – Disqualifying Conditions

Each of the following circumstances constitutes a Disqualifying Condition:

	Description of Disqualifying Condition	Detail	Evidence to be provided in support of application
1	The Satisfying Party holds a prohibited association between A-Leagues Clubs or with other sports	<p>This Disqualifying Condition is, and an association is prohibited if, the Satisfying Party either directly or indirectly holds any interest in the ownership of, has the ability to exercise voting rights in respect of any units, shares or other securities in issue of, or has the ability to exercise control or influence over the policies, affairs, decision-making and/or management (whether that ability is constituted by rights or contracts) of:</p> <p>another A-Leagues Club; or</p> <p>any Competing Sporting Organisation; or</p> <p>any team or club (including an Entity or business that operates a team or club) that participates in a Competing Sporting Organisation.</p>	<p>A Declaration of the Satisfying Party that that no such prohibited association exists.</p>
2	The Shareholder does not have the requisite financial capacity	<p>This Disqualifying Condition arises if the Shareholder is unable to provide evidence that it has sufficient financial capacity to reasonably satisfy FA that it shall be able meet the Licence Applicant's requirements under its Club Participation Agreement.</p>	<p>The Shareholder must provide a Declaration to confirm that it has sufficient, immediately available funds to meet the Licence Applicant's requirements under its Club Participation Agreement, and must provide reasonable documentation to demonstrate this. Such document may include but is not limited to copy of its current balance sheet, financial accounts for the previous two years, audit reports, and any guarantee and supporting documents, or bank statement or such other document, that it relies upon to establish its financial capacity. In addition, in considering whether a Disqualifying Condition applies, FA will consider the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether a clear statement and demonstration of solvency and independent certification has been provided that the Shareholder and Licence Applicant will remain solvent following the investment in the Licence Applicant; - whether a commitment to a long term investment has been demonstrated (ie the Shareholder will hold their investment in the Licence Applicant over a term of 5 years or more without change in majority ownership or control) - whether a business plan for investment and growth has been

	Description of Disqualifying Condition	Detail	Evidence to be provided in support of application
			<p>provided which demonstrates that the Licence Applicant is able to be funded over a minimum 5-year period;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether the leadership team (Board & C-suite) of the Licence Applicant is stable, diverse, experienced and has a commitment to community and to sport ie this can't be an opportunistic play or a transactional player, but a long term investment. - whether financial capacity to support bank guarantees (whether or not they are needed) of at least \$5m has been demonstrated. - whether the Shareholder has any material outstanding legal claims or tax liabilities (per customary due diligence investigations).
3	The Satisfying Party is prohibited from being a director under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)	<p>This Disqualifying Condition is where a Satisfying Party is prohibited by law from being a director, including any disqualification from managing corporations under Part D.6 of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth) or pursuant to equivalent requirements under the laws of any State or Territory or foreign jurisdiction.</p>	<p>In respect of the Satisfying Party, an ASIC bankruptcy search (or equivalent) along with a Declaration of each Satisfying Party that the person has not been disqualified from being a director under the <i>Corporations Act</i>.</p>
4	The Satisfying Party holds a Conviction	<p>This Disqualifying Condition is where a Satisfying Party has a Conviction (which is not a Spent Conviction) imposed by any court in Australia or a foreign court of competent jurisdiction:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) in respect of which an unsuspended sentence of at least 12 months' imprisonment was imposed; (b) in respect of any dishonesty offence (irrespective of the actual sentence imposed); (c) in respect of any offence involving corruption or perverting the course of justice (irrespective of the actual sentence imposed); (d) in respect of any serious breach of any requirement of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth) or any similar legislation under the laws of a foreign jurisdiction; or (e) where the person is required to provide personal information pursuant to the <i>Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004</i> (Cth) or pursuant to equivalent requirements under the laws of any State or Territory or foreign jurisdiction. 	<p>A Declaration of the Satisfying Party that they do not have such a Conviction.</p>
5	A Satisfying Party has suffered an insolvency event	<p>This Disqualifying Condition is where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a Satisfying Party has committed an act of bankruptcy within the meaning of section 40 of the <i>Bankruptcy Act 1966</i> (Cth) or they are bankrupt within the meaning of section 5 of that Act, or an analogous event or circumstance occurs in any jurisdiction and 	<p>Insolvency and bankruptcy searches on each Satisfying Party (and company search of the Entity).</p> <p>A Declaration of each Satisfying Party that he or she has not committed an act of bankruptcy or been declared</p>

	Description of Disqualifying Condition	Detail	Evidence to be provided in support of application
		<p>has not been discharged from such bankruptcy in accordance with the rules of the relevant jurisdiction;</p> <p>(b) the person is or has been a Director or Shareholder of a club anywhere in the world which has suffered two or more unconnected Insolvency Events, while they were a Director or Shareholder or within 30 days of their ceasing to be a Director or Shareholder, in respect of each of which a sporting sanction (such as a deduction of points) was imposed; or</p> <p>(c) the person has been a Director or Shareholder of two or more clubs anywhere in the world which have suffered an Insolvency Event, while they were a Director or Shareholder or within 30 days of their ceasing to be a Director or Shareholder, in respect of each of which a sporting sanction (such as a deduction of points) was imposed.</p>	<p>bankrupt, or been a Director or Shareholder, in the circumstances described</p>
6	The Satisfying Party does not meet the regulatory criteria of the Leagues	<p>This Disqualifying Condition is where a Satisfying Party:</p> <p>(a) is subject to a suspension or ban from involvement in the administration of a sport by any ruling body of a sport that is recognised by the International Olympic Committee or Sport Australia or any other national or international sporting association or governing body, whether such suspension or ban is direct or indirect (e.g. where persons or entities subject to the jurisdiction of the ruling body have been directed not to employ, contract with or otherwise engage or retain the services of an individual);</p> <p>(b) is subject to any form of suspension, disqualification or striking-off by a professional body including, without limitation, the Law Society in any State or Territory in Australia, the Australian Bar Association or any State or Territory bar association or the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia or any equivalent body in any foreign jurisdiction;</p> <p>(c) has been an Official at an A-Leagues Club that has been expelled from the Leagues (in the 4 years prior to their assessment in respect of the FPPT) for a breach of any FA or FIFA Statutes whilst they were an Official or within 30 days of their ceasing to be an Official;</p> <p>(d) has, in the 4 years prior to their assessment in respect of the FPPT, been the subject of a sanction for a material breach of the FA Statutes or the FIFA Statutes, AFC or any other confederation or member association of FIFA;</p> <p>(e) solely with respect to a Satisfying Party (who is an individual), is found, in a final, non-appealable ruling, to have breached (irrespective of any sanction actually imposed), or has admitted breaching (irrespective of whether disciplinary proceedings were brought or not) any rules in force from time to time in relation to the prohibition of betting on sport (whether in Australia or any other jurisdiction where the applicable action has taken place) in such individual's capacity as a person making or taking a bet in violation of applicable betting rules where the bet is made. For the avoidance of doubt, this Disqualifying Condition does not capture or relate to any rules or Laws related to the ownership or operation of a gambling or gambling-related business or service provider to a gambling business; or</p> <p>(f) is an Intermediary and/or is registered as an Intermediary.</p>	<p>A Declaration of the Satisfying Party that they are not subject to a regulatory order, or fall within a category, as described.</p>

	Description of Disqualifying Condition	Detail	Evidence to be provided in support of application
7	The Satisfying Party has not contravened any Modern Slavery laws	This Disqualifying Condition arises if the Satisfying Party has been convicted of any offence involving Modern Slavery.	A Declaration of the Satisfying Party that they have not been convicted of any offence involving Modern Slavery.

Annexure 7: NPL Men & NPL Women Criteria 2025/26

SPORTING CRITERIA – NPL MEN & WOMEN

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.01	A	YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have a written Youth Development Program. The Licensor must evaluate the quality of the youth development program and should verify the implementation by periodic visits to the training and games.</p> <p>(2) The program must cover at least the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) mission, vision and goals; (b) youth playing philosophy and youth development philosophy; (c) organisation of youth sector (organisational chart, specific age groups, etc.); (d) infrastructure available for youth sector (training and match facilities, etc.); (e) football education program for the different age groups (psychological, technical, tactical and physical); (f) yearly training plans (minimum duration of 40 weeks for ages 14 and above, maximum of 34 weeks for ages 10-13) with cycles and session objectives; and (g) evaluation and review processes for individual players. <p>(3) The Licence Applicant must further ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) every youth player involved in its program has the possibility to follow mandatory school education in accordance with national law; and (b) no youth player involved in its youth development program is prevented from continuing their non-football education. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.02	A	REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS
<p>All the Licence Applicant's men's and women's players, including youth and junior players, must be registered with Football Australia in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.03	A	REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS
All members of the Licence Applicant, including coaches, managers, medical staff, administrators, committee members and volunteers must be registered with Football Australia in accordance with the FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.04	A	CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Licence Applicant must adhere to the FA Member Protection Framework and the FA Safeguarding Policy in order to protect and safeguard children from potential abuses and promote their wellbeing within football when participating in activities organised by the Licence Applicant. (2) The Licence Applicant must abide by the relevant child protection legislation in each state/territory. (3) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO). 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.05	A	FA/MF PATHWAY
The Licence Applicant must release any player who has been selected for participation in an official FA/MF elite player pathway.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.06	A	LIAISON WITH MF TECHNICAL DIRECTOR / TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
<p>The Licence Applicant must prepare an annual report by the date specified by Licenser outlining coaching programs delivered, outcomes achieved and future planned enhancements for the youth development program.</p> <p>NOTE: For 2025/26, this report may be submitted after the Licensing Decision if deemed necessary by the MF.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.07	B	YOUTH TEAMS

NPL MEN:

(1) The Licence Applicant must at least have the following men's youth teams within its legal entity, another legal entity included in the reporting perimeter or a Club affiliated to its legal entity:

(a) FA "Youth" Category: At least three (3) teams within the age range of 14 to 17

(b) FA "Senior" Category: At least one (1) team at the age of 18 and above (in addition to the first team)

(2) Each youth team must take part in official competitions or programs played at national, regional or local level and recognised by Football Australia.

NPL WOMEN:

(1) The Licence Applicant must at least have the following women's youth teams within its legal entity, another legal entity included in the reporting perimeter or a Club affiliated to its legal entity:

(a) FA "Youth" and "Senior" Categories: At least three (3) teams (in addition to the first team), with recommended two (2) teams within the age range of 14 to 17 and one (1) team at the age of 18 and above.

(2) Each youth team must take part in official competitions or programs played at national, regional or local level and recognised by Football Australia.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.08	B	SCHOLARSHIP PLAYERS

The Licence Applicant must offer at least 1 (recommended 2) fee-free roster spots (i.e., scholarships) for players from under-privileged households for each of the required "FA Youth" Category teams in S.07.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.09	C	MEDICAL CARE OF PLAYERS

The Licence Applicant should provide evidence that all players on first team have undergone an annual medical exam prior to the start of the season.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.10	C	DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant should establish a policy that addresses diversity and inclusion within its Club.</p> <p>(2) All players and staff of the Licence Applicant should be aware of and have access to the policy.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.11	C	RACIAL EQUALITY POLICY
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant should establish a policy to tackle racism in football.</p> <p>(2) All players and staff of the Licence Applicant should be aware of and have access to the policy.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.12	C	CLUB YOUTH ACADEMY
<p>The Licence Applicant should submit a completed Youth Academy form, with all questions answered, based on FA's National Club Academy Scheme.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.13	C	GRASSROOTS PROGRAMS
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant should establish a grassroots program. Children, youths, amateurs, veterans, those with learning or physical disabilities and the socially disadvantaged should be included in the grassroots programs.</p> <p>(2) The main objectives of the Licence Applicant's grassroots football program shall be to encourage mass participation, stimulating greater interest in the game, providing more opportunities for social inclusion, supporting healthy lifestyles and the development of young people, both the sporting and educational aspects.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
S.14	C	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- (1) The Licence Applicant should ensure that players and all technical coaching staff of at least the first team have attended a session or an event related to:
 - (a) sports integrity matters;
 - (b) FIFA Laws of the Game;
 - (c) doping control; and
 - (d) other topics as required by FA and/or the MF, including cultural education / awareness training.
- (2) These sessions or events should be provided either by the Licence Applicant, Football Australia, the Member Federation or a third party in collaboration with the Licence Applicant / Football Australia / the Member Federation, during the year prior to the Season to be Licensed.

INFRASTRUCTURE CRITERIA – NPL MEN & WOMEN

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.01	A	VENUE(S) / STADIUM(S) FOR FIRST TEAM MATCHES
(1) The Licence Applicant must have a venue / stadium available to play its NPL senior (e.g., first team) matches. The Licence Applicant either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) owns the venue(s) / stadium(s); or (b) can provide a written contract with the owner of the venue(s) / stadium(s) it will use. (2) This contract must guarantee the use of the venue(s) / stadium(s) for the NPL senior (e.g., first team) matches for the coming season.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.02	A	VENUE / STADIUM: FIELD OF PLAY DIMENSIONS & FIELD MARKINGS
(1) The field of play must comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game. (2) The preferred dimensions of the field of play are 105m long and 68m wide. (3) The field of play dimensions must remain within a scope of 96m – 110m in length and 60m – 75m in width.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.03	A	VENUE / STADIUM: PLAYING SURFACE
(1) The playing surface must comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game. (2) The surface must be even and flat with complete coverage of grass. (3) The surface must be natural grass, reinforced natural grass (hybrid) or FIFA Quality approved artificial turf. (4) The surface must be free of potholes, foreign objects and protrusions of any kind through the surface or any deviations hazardous to players and officials.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.04	A	VENUE / STADIUM: GOALS & CORNER FLAGS
(1) The goals and corner flags must comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game.		

(2) Goal posts must be permanent, white in color, be made of aluminum or similar material, be round, pose no dangers to players and be firmly secured to the ground, with a height of 2.44m and a width of 7.32m and a diameter of no more than 12cm.

(3) Goal nets must be attached to posts, conform to Australian standards and cannot obstruct the goalkeeper.

(4) Corner flags are compulsory, with flag posts no less than 1.5m high.

(5) At least 1 spare net and 1 set of spare corner flags must be available.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.05	A	VENUE / STADIUM: PITCH PERIMETER FENCE
<p>(1) A pitch perimeter fence must surround the field of play, which is at least 2m from the field of play and at least 900mm in height.</p> <p>(2) The fence must be constructed of substantial material.</p> <p>(3) Any signage attached to the fence must be properly secured.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.06	A	VENUE / STADIUM: TECHNICAL AREA
<p>(1) The Technical Area must comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game.</p> <p>(2) The area must include two team benches positioned equidistant from the touchline and from the halfway line, with seating for at least 11 people.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.07	A	VENUE / STADIUM: EMERGENCY SERVICE ACCESS
<p>There must be direct access to the venue / stadium and the area around the field of play for emergency service vehicles.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.08	A	VENUE / STADIUM: PLAYER DRESSING ROOMS
<p>(1) The venue / stadium must have separate dressing rooms near the field of play for the home and visiting teams.</p>		

(2) The dressing rooms must be well-ventilated and lockable.

(3) The dressing rooms should, at a minimum, include the below amenities:

- Seating for at least 16 people;
- 1 lockable toilet with sanitary bin;
- 1 washbasin;
- 2 lockable showers;
- Hot and cold water;
- 1 physio/massage table;
- 1 whiteboard with markers and eraser;
- 1 refrigerator and/or ice bucket;
- 1 power point.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.09	A	VENUE / STADIUM: REFEREE DRESSING ROOM
<p>(1) The venue / stadium must have a dressing room near the field of play for the referees.</p> <p>(2) The dressing room must be well-ventilated and lockable.</p> <p>(3) The dressing room should, at a minimum, include the below amenities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Seating for at least 4 people; 1 lockable toilet with sanitary bin; 1 washbasin; 1 lockable shower; Hot and cold water; 1 table; 1 refrigerator and/or ice bucket; 1 power point. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.10	A	VENUE / STADIUM: WARM-UP AREA
<p>(1) A warm-up area must be provided for the teams.</p> <p>(2) The warm-up area must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> be in close proximity to the player dressing rooms and field of play, or the field of play itself may be used if necessary; 		

- (b) be completely covered with natural grass or FIFA approved artificial grass; and
- (c) be free of any obstructions, foreign objects, potholes or any deviations that could be hazardous to players or officials as they move across the surface.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.11	A	VENUE / STADIUM: FIELD OF PLAY LIGHTING
The field of play must have a maintained average horizontal floodlighting luminance of 200 lux to play night fixtures.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.12	A	VENUE / STADIUM: DISABLED SEATING
The venue / stadium must have a dedicated seating area for disabled spectators with easy access to parking and toilet facilities and which provides an unobstructed view of the field of play.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.13	A	VENUE / STADIUM: TOILETS
The venue / stadium must have toilet facilities that are maintained in good and clean condition for spectators.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.14	A	VENUE / STADIUM: CANTEEN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The venue / stadium must have at least one (1) canteen in clean condition that meets local government standards and health regulations, with a variety of foods and drinks. (2) If the canteen sells alcohol, the Club must hold the required liquor licence. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.15	A	VENUE / STADIUM: SCOREBOARD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) There must be an elevated scoreboard that is visible from all areas of the venue / stadium. (2) The scoreboard must be capable of showing the names of both teams (home/visitor is acceptable) and the match score. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.16	A	VENUE / STADIUM: MEDICAL AREA
<p>(1) The venue / stadium must have a designated medical area undercover that is close to or within the player dressing rooms.</p> <p>(2) The medical area should, at a minimum, include the below amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Treatment/physio/massage table; (b) Running water; (c) Sufficient lighting; and (d) Proper waste disposal. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.17	A	VENUE / STADIUM: MEDICAL SUPPLIES
The venue / stadium must be equipped with basic medical supplies, including a first aid kit and a defibrillator.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.18	A	VENUE / STADIUM: STRETCHER
The venue / stadium must be equipped with at least one (1) first aid stretcher, which complies with applicable standards, in a designated area near the field of play.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.19	A	VENUE / STADIUM: FIRE PREVENTION
The venue / stadium must be equipped with fire prevention devices as required by government and Australian standards.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.20	A	VENUE / STADIUM: EVACUATION PLAN / EMERGENCY EXIT PLAN
<p>(1) If required by the relevant authority, the venue / stadium must have an approved evacuation plan / emergency exit plan.</p> <p>(2) This plan must be clearly displayed at points of entry and exit.</p>		

(3) Exits must be free from obstructions, be clearly signposted and lit in accordance with Australian standards.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.21	B	VENUE / STADIUM: BROADCAST CAMERA POSITIONS
<p>(1) The venue / stadium must have broadcast camera positions that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) are located at midfield; (b) provide cover from the elements; (c) are elevated at least 3m above the field of play; (d) provide an unobstructed view of the pitch; and (e) provide access to necessary power. <p>(2) Temporary or permanent positions are permitted, but all positions must be completely stable and comply with relevant safety standards/codes of practice.</p> <p>(3) Permanent positions are strongly recommended.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.22	B	VENUE / STADIUM: PLAYERS RACE
<p>(1) The venue / stadium must have a players race to provide direct and exclusive access for players and referees from the dressing rooms to the field of play.</p> <p>(2) The players race must be constructed from substantial material, free from obstruction and not accessible to spectators.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.23	B	VENUE / STADIUM: PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM
<p>(1) The venue / stadium must have a public address (PA) system with sufficient speakers installed to ensure messages are heard throughout the venue.</p> <p>(2) The PA system must have the ability to project spoken announcements (e.g., announcer microphone) and the playing of recorded elements (e.g., music).</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.24	B	VENUE / STADIUM: SEATING
(1) The venue / stadium must have seating for at least 200 spectators. (2) It is recommended that at least 100 of these seats are undercover, either via an undercover viewing area or with individual seats.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.25	B	VENUE / STADIUM: TICKET BOX
If tickets are sold to the general public, the venue / stadium must have at least one (1) temporary or permanent ticket box at the entrance.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.26	C	VENUE / STADIUM: AMBULANCE
The venue / stadium should have one (1) ambulance on-site for all matchdays.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.27	C	VENUE / STADIUM: DRAINAGE
The field of play should have underground drainage to allow play during rain and periods of extended rainfall.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.28	C	VENUE / STADIUM: ENCLOSED VENUE
The venue / stadium should be completely enclosed with a temporary or permanent fence of at least 1.8m in height.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.29	C	VENUE / STADIUM: PARKING
The venue / stadium should have a designated parking area for match officials, the home team and away team in the closest lot to the stadium entry. It is recommended that this designated area be within 250m of the stadium.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.30	C	<p>VENUE / STADIUM: PRESS BOX / MEDIA AREA</p> <p>The venue / stadium should have a designated area for media members in the grandstand which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) covered seating; (b) writing surface for at least four (4) media members; (c) clear and unobstructed view of the pitch; and (d) access to necessary power.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.31	C	<p>VENUE / STADIUM: STADIUM LIGHTING</p> <p>(1) The venue / stadium should have general lighting to seating and a pedestrian pathway that conforms to applicable safety standards.</p> <p>(2) The venue / stadium should have emergency lighting in case of loss of power.</p>

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.32	C	<p>VENUE / STADIUM: STADIUM SAFETY CERTIFICATION DOCUMENT(S)</p> <p>(1) The venue / stadium must be certified for safety as defined by the relevant laws, regulations, and codes.</p> <p>(2) Best Practice documentation submitted for this certification should include such items as safety status, compliance statement regarding safety/security regulations, approval of capacity, annual fire safety statement, etc. Licence applicants should work with their Member Federation to provide any relevant document from their venue/stadium that is required per the relevant laws, regulations, and codes.</p>

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.33	C	<p>VENUE / STADIUM: GROUND RULES</p> <p>(1) The venue / stadium should have ground rules affixed to it and visible to spectators.</p> <p>(2) The ground rules should provide information on admission rights, abandonment or postponement of events, description of prohibitions and penalties, restrictions with regards to smoking, alcohol, fireworks, etc., seating rules and causes for ejection from the ground.</p>

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.34	A	TRAINING FACILITIES: AVAILABILITY
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have Training Facilities available for use by its teams throughout the duration of their season (e.g., pre-season and playing season).</p> <p>(2) The Licence Applicant either:</p> <p>(a) owns the Training Facilities; or</p> <p>(b) has a written contract with the owner of the Training Facilities.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
I.35	B	TRAINING FACILITIES: MINIMUM INFRASTRUCTURE
<p>The Licence Applicant's Training Facilities must include, at a minimum,:</p> <p>(a) one (1) full-size outdoor pitch;</p> <p>(b) dressing rooms (with designated separate rooms for men and women if the club has men's and women's teams that could train at the same time);</p> <p>(c) access to toilets; and</p> <p>(d) a medical room/area with a first aid kit, strapping tape, treatment table undercover, ice and a defibrillator.</p>		

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CRITERIA – NPL MEN & WOMEN

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.01	A	CLUB CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE
(1) The Licence Applicant must have an email address, phone number and mailing address (2) The Licence Applicant must have an organisational chart that outlines its personnel and their functional responsibilities within the Club's administrative structure.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.02	A	PRESIDENT / CEO / GENERAL MANAGER
(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a President / CEO / General Manager to be responsible for running its daily business (operational matters). This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer. (2) The appointment must have been done by the appropriate body (e.g. Executive Board) of the Licence Applicant.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.03	A	PHYSIOTHERAPIST / SPORTS TRAINER
(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed at least one Physiotherapist or an SMA Level 1 Sports Trainer who is responsible for medical treatment and massages for the first team during all trainings and matches. This individual may be full-time, part-time, an independent contractor or an external entity contracted to perform the relevant services. (2) The Licence Applicant must have appointed at least one SMA Level 1 Sports Trainer who is responsible for medical treatment for all youth teams and is on-call for all matches and trainings. This individual should be on-site for as many matches and trainings as possible. This individual may be full-time, part-time, an independent contractor or an external entity contracted to perform the relevant services. (3) The qualification of the Physiotherapist / Sports Trainer must be recognised by the appropriate national health authorities.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.04	A	HEAD COACH OF FIRST TEAM
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Head Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence responsible for all football matters of the first team. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) The Head Coach must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least an FA "B" Licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or (b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.05	A	ASSISTANT COACH OF FIRST TEAM
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint an Assistant Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence responsible for assisting the Head Coach in all football technical matters of the first team. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) The Assistant Coach must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least an FA "Senior C" Licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or (b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.06	B	ADMINISTRATIVE SPACE
<p>The Licence Applicant must have a designated space for administration activities to be conducted. This space may be an office space, at the stadium, and/or at the training facility.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.07	B	CLUB SECRETARY
<p>The Licence Applicant must have appointed a Club Secretary, who may be volunteer, part-time or full-time.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.08	B	CLUB TREASURER / FINANCE OFFICER
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a Club Treasurer / Finance Officer to be responsible for its financial matters. This individual may be full-time, part-time, a volunteer, an independent contractor or an external entity contracted to perform the relevant services.</p> <p>(2) This individual must hold a degree or certificate in accountancy, finance, business or related field, have more than 3 years of experience in this role or a similar role or be issued a recognition of competence by the Licenser.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.09	B	MEDIA OFFICER
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Media Officer being responsible for media matters. This individual may be full-time, part-time, a volunteer, an independent contractor or an external entity contracted to perform the relevant services.</p> <p>(2) The Media Officer must hold, as a minimum, one of the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a diploma or certificate in journalism, communications, media or related field; (b) concluded a media officer education course provided by Football Australia or an organisation recognised by Football Australia; or (c) a "recognition of competence" approved by the Licenser, which requires at least one (1) year experience in such matters. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.10	B	YOUTH TEAM HEAD COACHES
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Head Coach for each Youth Team required in S.07, with each having a valid coaching licence and being responsible for all football matters of the team. These individuals may be full-time, part-time or volunteers.</p> <p>(2) The Head Coaches must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least an FA "C" Licence (Senior or Youth) or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or (b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required licence as defined under (a) above. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.11	B	CLUB TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Club Technical Director to lead the technical development of the club. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) The Technical Director must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least an FA "B" Licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or (b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required licence as defined under (a) above. <p>(3) It is recommended that the Technical Director have supplementary qualities such as extensive playing and work experience at the professional club level, strong management skills, and/or have been a long-serving dedicated member of the Club as a player, coach, manager or advisor.</p> <p>(4) The Technical Director's responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, be the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) establishing and/or implementing Club philosophy; (b) establishing Youth and Player Development Structures and Programs; (c) ensuring technical standards are maintained and enhanced; (d) monitoring and evaluating all technical and developmental programs; (e) talent scouting; (f) management of Club's Youth Academies; (g) recruitment and management of coaches and talent scouts; and (h) management of match analysis processes. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.12	B	GOALKEEPER COACH OF FIRST TEAM
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Goalkeeper Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence for the first team. This individual may be full-time, part-time, a volunteer or an independent contractor.</p> <p>(2) The Goalkeeper Coach must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least an FA "Level 1" Goalkeeping Licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; (b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.13	B	RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES
<p>The Licence Applicant must prepare written position descriptions for all personnel mentioned in these Regulations.</p> <p>NOTE: It is recommended that the individuals filling these positions and club management sign these position descriptions.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.14	B	DUTY OF REPLACEMENT DURING THE LICENSING SEASON
<p>(1) If a function defined in these Regulations becomes vacant during the Licensing Season, the Licensee must ensure that, within a period of a maximum of sixty (60) days, the function is taken over by someone who holds the required qualification.</p> <p>(2) In the event that a function becomes vacant due to illness or accident, the Licensor may grant an extension to the sixty (60) day period only if reasonably satisfied that the person concerned is still medically unfit to resume duties.</p> <p>(3) The occurrence of a vacancy and replacement must be notified to the Licensor within seven (7) working days of the respective event.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.15	C	MEDICAL DOCTOR
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant should have appointed at least one doctor who is responsible for medical support during matches, as well as for doping prevention. This individual may be full-time, part-time or an independent contractor.</p> <p>(2) The qualification of the Medical Doctor must be recognised by the appropriate national health authorities.</p> <p>(3) The Medical Doctor should be on-call for the first team for all match days.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.16	C	YOUTH TEAM ASSISTANT COACHES
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant should appoint an Assistant Coach for each Youth Team required in S.07, with each having a valid coaching diploma/licence and being responsible for assisting the Head Coach in all football technical matters of the team. These individuals may be full-time, part-time or volunteers.</p>		

(2) The Assistant Coaches for the U16 team and above should:

- (a) hold at least an FA "Senior Coaching Certificate" or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or
- (b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.

(3) The Assistant Coaches for the U13 – U15 teams should:

- (a) hold at least an FA "Game Training Certificate" or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or
- (b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.17	C	FITNESS COACH OF FIRST TEAM
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant should have appointed a qualified Fitness Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence for the first team. This individual may be full-time, part-time, a volunteer an independent contractor or an external entity contracted to perform the relevant services.</p> <p>(2) The Fitness Coach should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold at least an AFC/FA Football Conditioning Licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or (b) hold an ASCA Level 1 Strength and Conditioning Coach Accreditation (or confirmation of accreditation by ASCA); or (c) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.18	C	SECURITY OFFICER
<p>(1) The Licence Applicant should have appointed a qualified Security Officer being responsible for safety and security matters. This individual may be full-time, part-time, a volunteer, an independent contractor or an external entity contracted to perform the relevant services.</p> <p>(2) The Security Officer should hold, as a minimum, one of the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a certificate as a policeman or security person according to national law; or (b) a safety and security diploma based on a specific course issued by Football Australia or by a state-recognised organisation; or 		

(c) a "recognition of competence" approved by the Licensor, which is based on the participation in specific safety and security course of FA and at least one (1) year experience in such matters.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.19	C	SAFETY AND SECURITY ORGANISATION - STEWARDING

The Licence Applicant should have engaged qualified stewards to ensure safety and security at home matches. For this purpose, it should:

- (a) employ the stewards; or
- (b) conclude a written contract with the Stadium owner providing the stewards, or an external security company providing stewards.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.20	C	LEGAL ADVISOR

(1) The Licence Applicant should appoint a qualified Legal Advisor who is responsible for handling all of the Licence Applicant's legal matters. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer (including a member of the Board), or the club may contract with a firm that provides legal services.

(2) The Legal Advisor must have the necessary legal qualifications.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
P.21	C	ANNUAL REPORT

The Licence Applicant should prepare an annual report which summarises activities undertaken in all areas of the club, successes achieved and areas for further development.

LEGAL CRITERIA – NPL MEN & WOMEN

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.01	A	<p>DECLARATION IN RESPECT OF THE PARTICIPATION IN AFC AND FA CLUB COMPETITIONS</p> <p>(1) The Licence Applicant must submit a legally-valid declaration confirming that the Licence Applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) recognises as legally-binding the statutes, rules and regulations and decisions of FIFA, the AFC, Football Australia and the Member Federation, as well as the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne as provided in the relevant articles of the AFC Statutes; (b) recognises the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (domiciled in Lausanne, Switzerland) for any dispute of international dimension and in particular involving FIFA and/or the AFC; (c) recognises the prohibition on recourse to ordinary courts under the FIFA Statutes, AFC Statutes and the FA Statutes; (d) At national level, it will play in competitions that are recognised and endorsed by Football Australia (e.g. national championship, national cup); (e) At international level, it will participate in competitions recognised and endorsed by the AFC and/or FIFA. To avoid any doubt, this provision does not relate to friendly matches; (f) will abide by and observe the provisions and conditions of the national Club Licensing Regulations; (g) All submitted documents are complete and correct; (h) authorises the competent Licensor to examine documents and seek information and, in the event of any appeal procedure, to seek information from any relevant public authority or private body according to national law; and (i) acknowledges that FIFA, the AFC and/or FA reserve the right to execute compliance audits at national level in accordance with clause 12 of the Regulations. <p>(2) This declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three (3) months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to the Licensor.</p>

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.02	A	LEGAL DOCUMENTS
<p>The Licence Applicant must submit the following documents and information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a copy of its current company articles, constitution, statutes or similar-type governing document; (b) a certificate of registration; 		

- (c) a current extract from a public register (e.g. ASIC) which demonstrates that the Licence Applicant is a legal entity (e.g. company or incorporated association) and which should contain the following minimum information;
 - (i) registered name;
 - (ii) popular name;
 - (iii) address of headquarters;
 - (iv) legal form;
 - (v) list of authorised signatories (if applicable); and
 - (vi) type of signature (if applicable) (e.g. individual, collective).
- (d) a signed declaration regarding the legal documents; and
- (e) (If applicable) the agreement between the Licence Applicant and the relevant member which has the right to participate in affiliated competitions of Football Australia.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.03	A	OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF CLUBS
(1) The Licence Applicant must submit a legally-valid declaration and related information outlining the ownership structure and Control mechanism of the Club. (2) The declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three (3) months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to the Licenser.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.04	A	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
In accordance with applicable legislation, the Licence Applicant must hold an Annual General Meeting at which all Members shall attend and be entitled to participate.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.05	A	PRIVATE ACADEMIES / OVERSEAS CLUBS
The Licence Applicant must submit a legally-valid declaration outlining the existence and terms of any contractual, financial, or other relationship with a private academy or overseas club.		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.06	A	WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS
<p>The professional players of the Licence Applicant must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players and shall incorporate all key provisions required by the relevant national law and of FIFA, the AFC and Football Australia. The contracts must be lodged in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.07	A	DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE & CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS
<p>As it relates to legally binding codes of conduct and disciplinary regulations for players and officials, the Licence Applicant, its players and officials must abide by the Football Australia National Code of Conduct and Grievance Resolution Regulations.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.08	C	MEMBERSHIP
<p>If applicable, the Licence Applicant should ensure that all its key stakeholders, including registered players, coaches, administrators and volunteers, are recognised as Members under its Constitution.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.09	C	PUBLIC FORUM(S)
<p>The Licence Applicant must host at least one (1) public forum per calendar year inviting parents, players, members, sponsors, etc. to be presented club strategies and discuss ways to provide greater value to relevant stakeholders. Issues and feedback from this forum should be documented and incorporated into the Licence Applicant's strategic planning process.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
L.10	C	BOARD REPRESENTATION
<p>The Licence Applicant's Board of Directors should comply with the 40:40:20 principle: 40% women, 40% men, 20% either.</p>		

FINANCIAL CRITERIA – NPL MEN & WOMEN

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.01	A	ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - AUDITED <p>(1) Regardless of the legal structure of the Licence Applicant, Annual Financial Statements shall be prepared in accordance with Australian accounting standards and Audited by an Independent Auditor.</p> <p>(2) The Audited Annual Financial Statements shall be in respect of the Statutory Closing Date immediately prior to the deadline for submission of the MF List of Licensing Decisions (unless the deadline for the Licence Applicant to submit these Audited Annual Financial Statements in accordance with Australian law is after the F.01 Criterion submission date, in which case the Licence Applicant may submit its Audited Annual Financial Statements for the previous Statutory Closing Date). The statements must consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a balance sheet; (b) a profit and loss account; (c) a cash flow statement; (d) notes, comprising a summary of significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory notes; and (e) a financial review by management.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.02	A	FINANCIAL RECORDS <p>(1) The Licence Applicant must maintain financial records in the form and nature required under Australian law.</p> <p>(2) The Licence Applicant must utilise an accounting system to enable it to properly maintain its financial records. This may include Excel for 2023/24.</p>

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.03	A	INSPECTION OF FINANCIAL RECORDS <p>The Licence Applicant must make available financial information requested by its Member Federation or Football Australia within five (5) business days of receiving notice of an inspection.</p>

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.04	A	ANNUAL BUDGET
<p>The Licence Applicant must submit its annual budget for the coming Financial Year, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) projected income for the coming Financial Year; (b) projected expenditure for the coming Financial Year; (c) all sources of income projected for the coming Financial Year along with the amount; and (d) all sources of expenditures projected for the coming Financial Year along with the amount. <p>NOTE: If the Licence Applicant's annual budget for the coming Financial Year is not yet approved based on the financial year end and timing of the F.04 submission, the draft budget should be submitted. If this is also not available, the current Financial Year budget may be submitted by the deadline. The coming Financial Year budget must be submitted within five (5) business days following approval.</p>		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.05	A	WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS PRIOR TO THE LICENSING DECISION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Within seven (7) days prior to the date on which the licensing decision is to be made by the First Instance Body, the Licence Applicant must make written representations to the Licensor. (2) The written representations shall confirm: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that all documents submitted to the Licensor are complete and correct; (b) whether or not any Significant Change in relation to all the licensing Criteria has occurred; (c) whether or not any Events or Conditions of Major Economic Importance have occurred that may have an adverse impact on the Licence Applicant's financial position since the balance sheet date of the preceding Audited Annual Financial Statements. If any Events or Conditions of Major Economic Importance have occurred, the management representations letter must include a description of the nature of the event or condition and an estimate of its financial effect, or a statement that such an estimate cannot be made; and (d) whether or not the Licence Applicant (or the Registered Member of Football Australia which has a contractual relationship with the Licence Applicant) or any Parent company of the Licence Applicant included in the reporting perimeter is seeking or has received protection from its creditors pursuant to laws or regulations within the 12 months preceding the Licensing Season. (3) Approval by management must be evidenced by way of a signature on behalf of the executive body of the Licence Applicant. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.06	B	NO OVERDUE PAYABLES TOWARDS FOOTBALL CLUBS ARISING FROM TRANSFER ACTIVITIES

The Licence Applicant must prove that it has no overdue payables towards football Clubs arising from transfer activities as at 30 June preceding the Season to be Licensed, unless by the following 30 September they have been fully settled, deferred by mutual agreement with the creditor or are subject to a not obviously unfounded dispute submitted to a competent authority.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.07	B	<p>NO OVERDUE PAYABLES TOWARDS EMPLOYEES, MEMBER FEDERATIONS AND SOCIAL/TAX AUTHORITIES</p> <p>(1) The Licence Applicant must prove that, in respect of contractual and legal obligations with its current/former employees, the Member Federation and social/tax authorities it has no overdue payables at 30 June preceding the Season to be Licensed, unless by the following 30 September they have been fully settled, deferred by mutual agreement with the creditor or are subject to a not obviously unfounded dispute submitted to a competent authority.</p> <p>(2) The term "employees" shall include but not be limited to:</p> <p>(a) all professional players according to the applicable FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of players; and</p> <p>(b) the administrative, technical, medical and security staff specified in the FA/MF Club Licensing Regulations.</p>

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.08	C	<p>BUSINESS PLAN</p> <p>(1) The Licence Applicant should develop a detailed 3-year business plan, with documented assumptions and measurable annual KPIs.</p> <p>(2) The business plan should be prepared by management and approved by the Board / Leadership of the Licence Applicant.</p>

SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION

Criteria F.09 and F.10 apply to Licensees after the licensing decision. If a Licensee does not fulfil these Criteria, this may lead to sanctions.

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.09	B	FEE TRANSPARENCY, CAPPING & REPORT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Licence Applicant must submit a report by the deadline specified by the Licenser outlining its proposed player fees for the upcoming year. (2) If the MF prescribes any minimum/maximum player registration fees that clubs may charge players for registration to their age-eligible teams, the Licence Applicant must comply with these requirements. (3) The report must contain a breakdown of the costs incurred in delivering the programs (e.g., estimated costs by type incurred per season for each age group/team) and will be assessed by the Licenser for their reasonableness. (4) Both FA and the MF have the power to require the club to validate information contained in the report or require the club to revise its proposed fees if they are determined to be unreasonable. (5) The MF may publicly advertise club fees centrally to facilitate easier comparison. 		

NO.	NPL CRITERIA GRADE	DESCRIPTION
F.10	B	DUTY TO NOTIFY SUBSEQUENT EVENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Following the licensing decision by the decision-making body, the Licensee must promptly notify the Licenser in writing about any Subsequent Events that may cast significant doubt upon the Licensee's ability to continue as a Going Concern until at least the end of the season for which the Licence has been granted. (2) Compliance with this criterion shall be assessed by the Licenser in respect of the following Licensing Cycle. 		