

17 June 2021
WJ/SMG/AB/PL/KA/ti

General Secretaries
Participating Member Associations
AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to Qatar (Final Round)

Dear Sirs

AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to Qatar (Final Round)
Video Assistant Referees (VAR)

With reference to the above, we are pleased to announce the implementation of the VAR system in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ – Asian Qualifiers Final Round.

Please be advised that the protocols and guidelines issued by FIFA and approved by the IFAB shall apply and be implemented to the highest standards. As such, we recommend that all Participating Member Associations (PMAs), players and team officials included, familiarise themselves with the principles of the VAR system in advance, as set out in the enclosed guidelines.

Preparation and Applications

The AFC is currently in dialogue with the technology companies on the accuracy and reliability of their system, and their capability to meet AFC's operational expectations.

After the conclusion of the Draw for the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to Qatar (Final Round) on 1 July 2021, the AFC shall conduct an inspection/assessment visit to the eligible PMAs and their nominated Stadium in accordance with the minimum requirements of the VAR technology installation. Following the assessment of each Stadium, a site inspection visit shall be organised; to check and monitor the progress of the relevant infrastructure construction or renovation for stadium readiness prior to each match.

For PMAs that are not using the VAR technology in their domestic leagues, AFC shall assess the feasibility of VAR implementation in consultation with the appointed provider and involving all relevant stakeholders, before making the final decision.

For whatever reason, should it be determined that the implementation of VAR cannot be done at the venue of any PMA, the use of VAR for the match to be hosted by the said

PMA shall not be considered. However, please note that the non-application of VAR in a specific match due to such restrictions shall not affect the application of VAR in the other matches. We will confirm such decision, if any, in a timely manner after evaluation/consideration of all options following the confirmation of qualified PMAs and nomination of their venues for the matches.

Please note that AFC will issue a separate circular to the qualified PMAs with updated information on venue nomination for the said matches due to the VAR implementation.

Thank you for your cooperation and kind attention to the information herein and should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via email at:

research.creatives@the-afc.com

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dato' Windsor John', written over a horizontal line.

DATO' WINDSOR JOHN
General Secretary

Encl: VAR Guidelines

Copy to: FIFA