



2017

DRAW MECHANISM

Preliminary Stage, Playoff Stage,
Group Stage and Round of 16

Draw Mechanism: Preliminary Stage and Playoff Stage

1. Entries

WEST - Slot Allocation

MA Ranking 30 Nov 2016	Member Association	Group Stage	Preliminary Stage / Playoff Stage
1	United Arab Emirates	3	1
2	Saudi Arabia	3	1
3	Islamic Republic of Iran	2	2
4	Qatar	2	2
5	Uzbekistan	1	2
6	Iraq	1	1
7	Kuwait		1
8	Syria		1
9	Jordan		1
10	India		1
11	Bahrain		1
12	Lebanon		1

WEST - Club Entries

MA	Ranking	Clubs in Preliminary / Playoff Stage
United Arab Emirates	1	AL WAHDA (UAE)
Saudi Arabia	2	AL FATEH FC (KSA)
Islamic Republic of Iran	3	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)
Qatar	4.1	EL JAISH SC (QAT)
	4.2	AL SADD SC (QAT)
Uzbekistan	5.1	FC BUNYODKOR (UZB)
	5.2	FC NASAF (UZB)
Iraq	6	<i>(Not eligible – failed in being granted Club License)</i>
Kuwait	7	<i>(Suspension by FIFA)</i>
Syria	8	<i>(Not eligible – failed in being granted Club License)</i>
Jordan	9	AL WEHDAT (JOR)

India	10	JSW BENGALURU FC (IND)
Bahrain	11	AL HIDD CLUB (BHR)
Lebanon	12	<i>(Not eligible – failed in being granted Club License)</i>

EAST - Slot Allocation

MA Ranking 30 Nov 2016	Member Association	Group Stage	Preliminary Stage / Playoff Stage
1	Korea Republic	3	1
2	Japan	3	1
3	China PR	2	2
4	Australia	2	1
5	Thailand	1	2
6	Hong Kong	1	1
7	Vietnam		1
8	Malaysia		1
9	Indonesia		1
10	Myanmar		1
11	Philippines		1
12	Singapore		1

EAST - Club Entries

MA	Ranking	Clubs in Preliminary / Playoff Stage
Korea Republic	1	JEJU UNITED FC (KOR)
Japan	2	JAPAN 4 TH CLUB
China PR	3.1	SHANGHAI SIPG FC (CHN)
	3.2	SHANGHAI SHENHUA FC (CHN)
Australia	4	BRISBANE ROAR (AUS)
Thailand	5.1	SUKHOTHAI FC (THA)
	5.2	BANGKOK UNITED (THA)
Hong Kong	6	KITCHEE (HKG)
Vietnam	7	HANOI T&T (VIE)
Malaysia	8	JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (MAS)
Indonesia	9	<i>(No club entry)</i>
Myanmar	10	YADANARBON FC (MYA)
Philippines	11	GLOBAL FC (PHI)

Singapore	12	TAMPINES ROVERS FC (SIN)
-----------	----	--------------------------

2. Principles

- Country Protection.
- A club from a higher ranked Member Association (MA) plays at a later stage of the AFC Champions League (ACL) Playoff.
- A club who wins the Preliminary Stage match shall qualify for the next round of the Preliminary Stage. If it is the final round of the Preliminary Stage, the club shall qualify for the Playoff Stage.
- A club who wins the Playoff Stage match shall qualify for the Group Stage.
- Losing clubs from a Member Association (MA) with ACL direct slot will not participate in the AFC Cup.
- Losing clubs from a MA with an ACL Playoff slot will join the AFC Cup Group Stage.
- If a club from a MA with an ACL Playoff slot qualifies for the ACL Group Stage, then its allocated AFC Cup Group Stage slot will be given to a next eligible club in its MA (standby club).
- In the ACL Preliminary Stage and Playoff Stage, a club from the highest ranked MA will play against a club from the lowest ranked MA while the remaining clubs from higher ranked MAs play against clubs from lower ranked MAs.
- In the ACL Preliminary Stage and Playoff Stage, a club from a higher ranked MA will host the match.

3. Preliminary Stage and Playoff Stage Match Schedule

Region	Stage	Match Date	Match No.	Match		
West	Preliminary Stage 2	Tue, 31 January 2017	PS 2.1	AL WEHDAT (JOR)	vs.	JSW BENGALURU FC (IND)
			PS 2.2	FC NASAF (UZB)	vs.	AL HIDD CLUB (BHR)
			PS 2.3	AL SADD SC (QAT)	vs.	Bye
			PS 2.4	FC BUNYODKOR (UZB)	vs.	Bye

Region	Stage	Match Date	Match No.	Match		
West	Playoff	Tue, 7	PO 1	AL WAHDA (UAE)	vs.	Winner PS 2.1

	Stage	Feb 2017	PO 2	AL FATEH FC (KSA)	vs.	Winner PS 2.2
			PO 3	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)	vs.	AL SADD SC (QAT)
			PO 4	EL JAISH SC (QAT)	vs.	FC BUNYODKOR (UZB)

Region	Stage	Match Date	Match No.	Match		
East	Preliminary Stage 1	Tue, 24 Jan 2017	PS 1.1	HANOI T&T (VIE)	vs.	Bye
			PS 1.2	JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (MAS)	vs.	Bye
			PS 1.3	YADANARBON FC (MYA)	vs.	Bye
			PS 1.4	GLOBAL FC (PHI)	vs.	TAMPINES ROVERS FC (SIN)
Region	Stage	Match Date	Match No.	Match		
East	Preliminary Stage 2	Tue, 31 Jan 2017	PS 2.1	KITCHEE (HKG)	vs.	HANOI T&T (VIE)
			PS 2.2	BANGKOK UNITED (THA)	vs.	JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (MAS)
			PS 2.3	SUKHOTHAI FC (THA)	vs.	YADANARBON FC (MYA)
			PS 2.4	BRISBANE ROAR (AUS)	vs.	Winner PS 1.4
Region	Stage	Match Date	Match No.	Match		
East	Playoff Stage	Tue, 7 Feb 2017	PO 1	JEJU UNITED FC (KOR)	vs.	Winner PS 2.1
			PO 2	Japan 4 th Club	vs.	Winner PS 2.2
			PO 3	SHANGHAI SIPG FC (CHN)	vs.	Winner PS 2.3
			PO 4	SHANGHAI SHENHUA FC (CHN)	vs.	Winner PS 2.4

Draw Mechanism: Group Stage

1. Entries

Region	MA	1 st Club	2 nd Club	3 rd Club	
WEST	United Arab Emirates	AL AHLI FC (UAE)	AL JAZIRA (UAE)	AL AIN FC (UAE)	
	Saudi Arabia	AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)	AL HILAL SFC (KSA)	AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)	
	Islamic Republic of Iran	ESTEGHLAL KHOUZESTAN FC (IRN)	ZOBAHAN FC (IRN)	PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN)	
	Qatar	AL RAYYAN SC (QAT)	LEKHWIYA SC (QAT)	-	
	Uzbekistan	PFC LOKOMOTIV (UZB)	-	-	
	Winner of Playoff 1 (West)				
	Winner of Playoff 2 (West)				
	Winner of Playoff 3 (West)				
	Winner of Playoff 4 (West)				

Region	MA	1 st Club	2 nd Club	3 rd Club
EAST	Korea Republic	FC SEOUL (KOR)	SUWON SAMSUNG BLUEWINGS (KOR)	JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR)
	Japan	KASHIMA ANTLERS (JPN)	JPN 2 ND CLUB	JPN 3 RD CLUB
	China	GUANGZHOU EVERGRANDE FC (CHN)	JIANGSU FC (CHN)	-
	Australia	ADELAIDE UNITED (AUS)	WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS (AUS)	-
	Thailand	MUANGTHONG UNITED (THA)	-	-
	Hong Kong	EASTERN SC (HKG)	-	-

	Winner of Playoff 1 (East)
	Winner of Playoff 2 (East)
	Winner of Playoff 3 (East)
	Winner of Playoff 4 (East)

2. Draw Principles

- Group A, B, C, D (West)
- Group E, F, G, H (East)
- Country Protection.
- Highest ranked MAs with the same number of slots will be drawn.
- League champions are placed first followed by the remaining clubs from the same MA into reserved slots.
- Implementation of Double Match Date System (Mon/Tue for West, Tue/Wed for East) to secure maximum coverage to the matches for spectators and TV.
- Clubs which share the stadium will not play its home matches on the same day.
- Avoid more than two (2) matches in same day in same country.

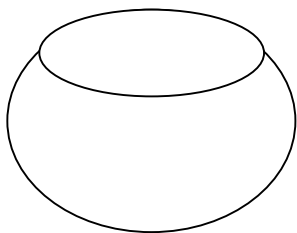
3. Draw Mechanism – West

a) Draw Pot: One (1) Country Pot

b) Procedure: *(MAs in alphabetical order)*

- **Islamic Republic of Iran (3 clubs)** – ESTEGHLAL KHOUZESTAN FC (IRN), ZOBAHAN FC (IRN), PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN) + Winner of Playoff 3 (West) as country protection
- **Saudi Arabia (3 clubs)** – AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA), AL HILAL SFC (KSA), AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA) + Winner of Playoff 2 (West) as country protection
- **United Arab Emirates (3 clubs)** – AL AHLI FC (UAE), AL JAZIRA (UAE), AL AIN FC (UAE) + Winner of Playoff 1 (West) as country protection

Country Pot:



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
 SAUDI ARABIA
 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

- Qatar (2 clubs) – AL RAYYAN SC (QAT), LEKHWIYA SC (QAT)
- Uzbekistan (1 club) – PFC LOKOMOTIV (UZB)

Simulation – West

Pos.	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
1	1	5	9	13/14/16
2	13/14/16	2	6	10
3	11	13/14/16	3	7
4	8 - (PO)	12 - (PO)	15 - (PO4)	4-(PO)

c) Order of Draw

- i) League champion of the 1st drawn MA (IRN/KSA/UAE) will go to position A1 while the remaining clubs drawn (including respective Playoff winner) will go to positions B2, C3 and D4 respectively.

	A	B	C	D
1	1			
2		2		
3			3	
4				4

- ii) League champion of the 2nd drawn MA (IRN/KSA/UAE) will go to position B1 while the remaining clubs drawn (including respective Playoff winner) will go to positions C2, D3 and A4 respectively.

	A	B	C	D
1	1	5		
2		2	6	
3			3	7
4	8			4

- iii) League champion of the 3rd drawn MA (IRN/KSA/UAE) will go to position C1 while the remaining clubs drawn (including respective Playoff winner) will go to positions D2, A3 and B4 respectively.

	A	B	C	D
1	1	5	9	
2		2	6	10
3	11		3	7
4	8	12		4

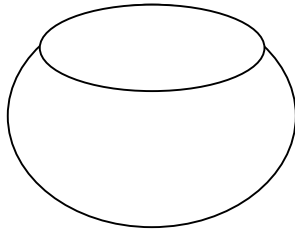
- iv) Based on draw principles and rankings, Qatar league champion and Knockout champion will go to the highest available positions in the groups with winners of Playoff 1 and winner of Playoff 2 (D1 or A2 or B3). Winner of Playoff 4 will go to position C4.
- v) Uzbekistan league champion will go to the remaining available position in the Group with Playoff 3 winner (D1 or A2 or B3).

	A	B	C	D
1	1	5	9	13/14/16
2	13/14/16	2	6	10
3	11	13/14/16	3	7
4	8	12	15 (PO4)	4

4. Draw Mechanism – East

- a) Draw Pot: One (1) Country Pot
- b) Procedure: *(MAs in alphabetical order)*
- Japan (3 clubs) – KASHIMA ANTLERS (JPN), Japan 2nd Club, Japan 3rd Club + Winner of Playoff 2 (East) as country protection
 - Korea Republic (3 clubs) – FC SEOUL (KOR), SUWON SAMSUNG BLUEWINGS (KOR), JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR) + Winner of Playoff 1 (East) as country protection

Country Pot:



JAPAN
KOREA REPUBLIC

- **China PR (2 clubs)** – GUANGZHOU EVERGRANDE FC (CHN), JIANGSU FC (CHN)
+ Winner of Playoff 3 (East) as country protection + Winner of Playoff 4 (East)
as country protection
- **Australia (2 clubs)** – ADELAIDE UNITED (AUS), WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS
(AUS)
- **Thailand (1 club)** – MUANGTHONG UNITED (THA)
- **Hong Kong (1 club)** – EASTERN SC (HKG)

Simulation – East

Pos.	Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
1	1	5	9 - CHN	13 - AUS
2	15/16 - THA or HKG	2	6	10 - CHN
3	12 - (PO4) CHN/AUS/PHI/SI N	14 - AUS	3	7
4	8 - (PO)	11 - (PO3) CHN/THA/MYA	15/16 - THA or HKG	4 - (PO)

c) Order of Draw

- i) League champion of the 1st drawn MA (KOR/JPN) will go to position E1 while the remaining clubs drawn (including respective Playoff winner) will go to positions F2, G3 and H4 respectively.

	E	F	G	H
1	1			
2		2		
3			3	
4				4

- ii) League champion of the 2nd drawn MA (KOR/JPN) will go to position F1 while the remaining clubs drawn (including respective Playoff winner) will go to positions G2, H3 and E4 respectively.

	E	F	G	H
1	1	5		
2		2	6	
3			3	7
4	8			4

- iii) Based on draw principles, China PR league champion will go to position G1 while league runner-up will go to position H2. Due to country protection, Winner of Playoff 3 will go to position F4 while Winner of Playoff 4 will go to position E3.

	E	F	G	H
1	1	5	9	
2		2	6	10
3	12		3	7
4	8	11		4

- iv) Based on draw principles, Australia league champion will go to position H1 while league runner-up will go to position F3.

	E	F	G	H
1	1	5	9	13
2		2	6	10
3	12	14	3	7
4	8	11		4

- v) **Scenario 1:** If Korea Republic league champion occupies position E1 then Thailand league champion will go to position G4.

Scenario 2: If Japan league champion occupies position E1 then Thailand league champion will go to position E2.

- vi) Hong Kong league champion will go to the remaining available position (E2 or G4).

	E	F	G	H
1	1	5	9	13
2	15/16	2	6	10
3	12	14	3	7
4	8	11	15/16	4

Knockout Stage: Round of 16

Principles (Home & Away)

- Home & Away matches will be played to decide the winner for Round of 16.
- The winner and runner-up from the same group will not play each other in Round of 16.
- Group runner-up will host the 1st leg first and group winners will host the 2nd Leg of respective Round of 16 matches.
- If Clubs sharing the same stadium are the winners or runner-ups of the group, AFC General Secretariat will make a final decision at the later stage with regards to the date for the matches.

Match Schedule

The match schedule for the Knockout Stage for Round of 16 has been decided as below:

ROUND OF 16 – 1 st Leg	Region	Date	Day	Match		
	WEST	22 May 2017	Mon	Group A Runner-up	vs.	Group C Winner
		22 May 2017	Mon	Group C Runner-up	vs.	Group A Winner
		23 May 2017	Tue	Group B Runner-up	vs.	Group D Winner
		23 May 2017	Tue	Group D Runner-up	vs.	Group B Winner
	EAST	23 May 2017	Tue	Group E Runner-up	vs.	Group G Winner
		23 May 2017	Tue	Group G Runner-up	vs.	Group E Winner
		24 May 2017	Wed	Group F Runner-up	vs.	Group H Winner
		24 May 2017	Wed	Group H Runner-up	vs.	Group F Winner

ROUND OF 16 – 2 nd Leg	Region	Date	Day	Match		
	WEST	29 May 2017	Mon	Group C Winner	vs.	Group A Runner-up
		29 May 2017	Mon	Group A Winner	vs.	Group C Runner-up
		30 May 2017	Tue	Group D Winner	vs.	Group B Runner-up
		30 May 2017	Tue	Group B Winner	vs.	Group D Runner-up
	EAST	30 May 2017	Tue	Group G Winner	vs.	Group E Runner-up
		30 May 2017	Tue	Group E Winner	vs.	Group G Runner-up
		31 May 2017	Wed	Group H Winner	vs.	Group F Runner-up
31 May 2017		Wed	Group F Winner	vs.	Group H Runner-up	

----- x -----