



POSITION DESCRIPTION

TITLE:	Senior Legal Counsel
DEPARTMENT:	Legal and Integrity
LOCATION:	Driver Ave, Moore Park NSW 2021
REPORTS TO:	Fiona Stuart, Head of Legal & Compliance, WAC 2026
START DATE:	Fixed Term Contract: asap
END DATE:	End Fixed Term Contract: 31 March 2026 (with possible 1 month extension dependent on Event requirements).

DIMENSIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of direct reports 	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of indirect reports 	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget responsibility in \$. <i>(State whether prime, shared or contributory responsibility)</i> 	N/A

Background on the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026

The Asian Football Confederation (**AFC**) has awarded Football Australia the right to host the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026, the premier women's national football competition in Asia (the **Event**). A local organising committee (**LOC**) has been established by Football Australia to plan and deliver the Event. The LOC's vision is to deliver a world class event that celebrates Asia's rich football culture and leaves an enduring legacy for the game in Australia.

This prestigious event will bring together 12 nations in a tournament structured into three groups of four. Following the resounding success of last year's FIFA Women's World Cup, Football Australia, the LOC its stakeholders and partners are eager to create another tournament that celebrates women's football, delivers legacy outcomes for football and Australian society more broadly.

Purpose of Role

- The LOC is seeking a highly experienced Senior Legal Counsel to provide dedicated legal support and services for the Event. This position will be responsible for managing complex legal issues, including key commercial agreements, regulatory compliance, and risk management. The ideal candidate will bring experience in sports law or event-related legal practice, providing critical legal advice and strategic guidance for the successful and compliant execution of this high-profile sporting event.

Key Areas of Responsibility

- Assist the Head of Legal & Compliance in providing legal advice to the LOC in relation to all aspects of the organisation of the event, including compliance, corporate governance, employment, intellectual property, ticketing, venue and general commercial matters
- Draft and negotiate the LOC's contracts

- Implement the LOC's contract management policy to ensure that there is discipline around the execution of contracts, the management of contracts (including the treatment of signed originals and monitoring of compliance) and the sign-off of contracts at the end of their term
- Assist the Head of Legal & Compliance in managing and resolving the LOC's legal disputes with minimum impact to the operation of the LOC's business
- Assist the Head of Legal & Compliance to support and advise the Board in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities and in relation to the activities of the LOC
- Assist Head of Legal & Compliance in the development of a rights protection strategy that meets the LOC's obligations under the Organising Agreement with the AFC and addresses:
 - the registration and protection of intellectual property rights
 - strategies and monitoring mechanisms to protect intellectual property rights and to safeguard against incidents of ambush marketing and counterfeit merchandise
 - strategies for dealing with infringements and reporting infringements
 - rights protection initiatives around venues during the event
- Develop good relationships with the GM, Commercial and the GM, Venue and Event Operations and key staff within each of their teams to support brand awareness and education campaigns around appropriate brand usage
- Liaise with external stakeholders including the AFC, governments, external legal advisors, the police, customs and the LOC's service providers, and provide rights protection training opportunities to those stakeholders (and to volunteers) where appropriate
- Ensure the LOC is informed of new or proposed legislation relevant to the organisation of the event, and provide training to LOC employees as appropriate
- Develop, maintain and improve all administrative processes to enhance the operation of the legal team, including document creation and management, coordination of meetings, maintenance of meeting records and filing
- Assist in the preparation of policies, rules and regulations, as appropriate

Key Outcomes

- Internal LOC employee satisfaction with level of service provided by legal team
- Absence of adversarial actions
- AFC satisfaction with LOC's performance of AFC and relevant hosting state requirements.

Skills, Experience & Attributes

Skills & Experience

- Minimum 6 years' experience as a lawyer
- Exposure to all areas of law, particularly contract, intellectual property, technology, employment, sponsorship, broadcast, media, litigation and general commercial matters
- Proven experience in providing quality legal advice, drafting, negotiating and managing contracts
- Proven experience in the management of multiple and concurrent small-scale contracts
- Experience in protecting brands and/or intellectual property rights and in the sports industry preferred

Attributes

- Ability to manage multiple priorities and competing deadlines
- Highly developed written and interpersonal skills
- Team player and excellent communicator
- Ability to think, plan and act strategically
- Proven ability to use excellent judgment and analytical ability to make rational and sound decisions
- Ability to be persuasive and relentless in reinforcing the best interests of the LOC
- Ability to work to high ethical standards and provide quality service delivery to stakeholders and maintain a high degree of integrity

- Strong attention to detail
- Familiarity with IT and communication systems and platforms
- Understanding of football

Major interactions

Internal

- Head of Legal & Compliance
- LOC Senior Management Team
- LOC Functional Areas
- Football Australia

External

- AFC
- Federal, State and Territory Government stakeholders
- Police & customs
- Service providers
- Venue owners/operators
- External legal counsel

Unique Criteria (e.g. unique work hours, significant travel)

- Unique Work hours inclusive of weekend and evening work where required
- Ability to work with multiple stakeholders simultaneously
- Domestic and international travel where required