



## Al Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 41: **Al Shorta sign official kit deal with Nike (2013)**

Midway through the 2012-13 season, Al Shorta started to wear a new home kit manufactured by Nike. It was green with a long white diagonal line that was separated into two sections towards the top of the kit. The 2013-14 season saw them wear a new Nike home kit, which was green but was almost all-white on the back. These two kits were both manufactured by Nike, but Al Shorta didn't have an official contract signed with Nike at that time, rather they were simply wearing Nike apparel with the club's branding.

It wasn't until December 2013 that Al Shorta signed an official kit deal with Nike (as well as a sponsorship deal with Royal Arena Sport). It was a one-year deal that would see Nike themselves supply Al Shorta with new kits for their 2014 AFC Champions League qualifying campaign, and then supply them with a brand new set of kits in the case of them playing in the 2014 AFC Cup, which did turn out to happen. When Al Shorta qualified for the 2015 AFC Cup by winning the 2013-14 Iraqi Premier League, the deal was extended for another year and Nike supplied Al Shorta with new kits that had their own unique designs on them, rather than one of Nike's teamwear designs. The kits for the 2014-15 season also had the club's crest embroidered onto the kit, unlike previous seasons. Al Shorta's deal with Nike not only saw them wear some beautiful kits, but also saw them become the first Iraqi club in history to have an official kit deal with one of the biggest kit manufacturing companies in the world, in what was a historic achievement for the club and a real breakthrough for Iraqi club football. Below are some pictures of some of the Nike kits that Al Shorta have worn in recent years:











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