AFF Electoral Code

Edition 2022

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PRELIMINARY CHAPTER

1. Scope of Application

This AFF Electoral Code (the "**Code**") is applicable to the elections to the AFF Council pursuant to the AFF Statutes. In addition, the AFC Statutes and any other AFC regulations are applicable to the elections to the representative of AFF for the AFC Executive Committee.

2. General Principles

2.1 The democratic principles of separation of powers, transparency and publication of AFF electoral processes must be observed without exception.

2.2 In accordance with Articles 3.2 and Article 3.6 of the AFF Statutes, the AFF is neutral in matters of politics and shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third parties. Accordingly, interference of any kind by any government of any Member Association in the AFF electoral process is not permitted. For the avoidance of doubt, local and national government rules in any territory regarding elections shall not apply to the AFF electoral process.

2.3 The Electoral Committee shall adapt and approve electoral rules for elections to the AFF Council in accordance with this Code, AFF Statutes and pertinent AFC regulations.

2.4 The AFF shall inform AFC of:

2.4.1 the commencement of the elections to its elected bodies;

2.4.2 the announcement of the elections and its electoral rules;

2.4.3 the duration of the elections and of the mandates; and

2.4.4 any government interference in the electoral process.

2.5 The elected members of the AFF Council shall continue to exercise their functions until the completion of the electoral process.

CHAPTER ONE: ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

3. Composition

3.1 The Electoral Committee organises, supervises, and makes all decisions relating to the AFF elections unless stipulated otherwise in this Code and/or the AFC Statutes and AFC regulations.

3.2 The members of the Electoral Committee shall be appointed by the AFF Council from the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and/or AFF Appeal Committee.

3.3 The Electoral Committee shall comprise of:

3.3.1 a Chairperson;

3.3.2 a Deputy Chairperson;

3.3.3 three (3) members.

3.4 The General Secretary serves as the Secretary to the Electoral Committee. He takes part in the activities of the Electoral Committee in a consultative capacity and is responsible for related logistical and administrative matters.

3.5 In the event that any member of the Electoral Committee:

3.5.1 submits a candidature for an election; or

3.5.2 is a relative, whether by birth or marriage, of one of the candidates; or

3.5.3 has an identifiable conflict of interest (e.g. business relationship with a candidate);

they are ineligible to sit on the Electoral Committee for matters where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality.

3.6 Members of the Electoral Committee shall be expected to officially declare their candidature for the AFF election in such a way as to allow the replacement process to be carried out without any time pressure prejudicial to any election.

3.7 The Electoral Committee may be assisted by the General Secretariat at any time provided that the individuals providing the assistance are not candidates for any AFF election and have no identifiable conflict of interest.

4. Duties

4.1 The Electoral Committee is responsible for all tasks relating to the organisation, running and supervision of an elective AFF Congress, including without limitation:

4.1.1 strictly enforcing the relevant Statutes, Directives and Regulations of AFC and the AFF;

4.1.2 strictly enforcing this Code;

4.1.3 strictly enforcing the statutory deadlines for elections;

4.1.4 conducting the eligibility check on the candidates and deciding on their eligibility;

4.1.5 distributing information to AFF Member Associations, the media and public;

4.1.6 managing relations with government bodies (where necessary);

4.1.7 adopting and strictly enforcing electoral rules for elections to the AFF Council;

4.1.8 the candidature procedure;

4.1.9 organising the elective AFF Congress;

4.1.10 drawing up the list of voters in accordance with the AFF Statutes;

4.1.11 the voting procedure; and

4.1.12 all other tasks necessary to ensure the smooth running of the electoral process.

5. Convocation and Quorum

5.1 The Electoral Committee must be convoked validly by the Chairperson to be entitled to deliberate and pass decisions.

5.2 A quorum is constituted by the majority (more than 50%) of the members.

6. Decisions

6.1 Decisions must be passed by a majority of the votes cast. If a vote is tied, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote. If the Chairperson is conflicted then the Deputy Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

6.2 Decisions are recorded in the minutes signed by the Chairperson and the Secretary.

CHAPTER TWO: CANDIDATURES

7. Eligibility

7.1 The eligibility criteria for candidatures are defined within the AFF Statutes.

8. Submission

8.1 Candidatures shall be sent by registered post or electronically or by hand to the AFF General Secretariat in accordance with the time limits defined in the AFF Statutes.

9. Examination

9.1 Candidatures shall be examined and an integrity check shall be conducted by the Electoral Committee. The Electoral Committee is entitled to request the support of an external company to conduct the integrity check.

9.2 The Electoral Committee shall decide on the eligibility and on the integrity of the candidates and inform them accordingly.

9.3 The official list of candidates shall be provided to the AFF Member Associations in accordance with the AFF Statutes. It shall also be published in the AFF website.

CHAPTER THREE: AFF CONGRESS

10. Deadline for convocation

10.1 An elective AFF Congress shall be convoked in accordance with the AFF Statutes.

10.2 Notification shall be addressed to AFF Member Associations in accordance with the AFF Statutes.

10.3 The elective AFF Congress shall be announced through the AFF website.

11. Ballot papers

11.1 The AFF shall produce the ballot papers under the supervision and charge of the Electoral Committee. The ballot papers shall be printed clearly and legibly.

11.2 The ballot papers shall be a different colour for each round of the election.

11.3 The ballot papers should contain the full names of the candidates running in the relevant elections with a corresponding box for each of the candidates

12. Urn

12.1 Before the start of voting, the urn for receiving votes (which shall be transparent), will be opened and presented to the delegates of the AFF Congress. It shall then be closed and placed in a visible position near the Electoral Committee.

12.2 During the entire voting process, the urn shall be monitored by a member of the Electoral Committee.

13. Polling booths

13.1 Transparent polling booths shall be placed near the urn and polling station so that ballot papers may be completed in secret. No mobile phones, cameras or any other recording devices shall be allowed in the polling booths.

14. Vote

14.1 Before the start of the voting procedures, the Chairperson shall explain the voting procedure in detail and cite any relevant statutory or legislative provisions.

14.2 Each AFF Member Association with the right to vote shall be called in turn and invited to move to the front of the hall where the election is taking place.

14.3 Once called, the voting delegate of the AFF Member Association moves to the front of the hall and, after signing, receives the ballot paper.

14.4 The voting delegate of the AFF Member Association completes the ballot paper in the polling booth.

14.5 The voting delegate of the AFF Member Association deposits their ballot paper in the urn, signs the electoral register, and returns to their seat.

15. Count

15.1 The counting procedure begins once all ballot papers have been deposited in the urn. The Chairperson opens the urn and tips out the ballot papers.

15.2 Only the Electoral Committee, the Secretary, and members of the AFF General Secretariat approved by the Chairperson may take part in the count. All operations shall be carried out in a way that can be followed clearly by the AFF Congress.

16. Invalid ballot papers

16.1 The following ballot papers are considered spoiled:

16.1.1 ballot papers that do not bear the official distinctive marks defined by the Electoral Committee;

16.1.2 ballot papers that bear any words other than the names of the candidates;

16.1.3 ballot papers that are illegible or have been defaced; and

16.1.4 ballot papers that bear identifying marks.

16.2 Spelling mistakes shall result in the invalidity of a vote only if it is not possible to identify with certainty any of the official candidates.

16.3 The Chairperson shall write on the back of any invalid ballot paper (in red) the reasons for its invalidity and confirm with a signature.

17. Declaration of results

17.1 Once the urn has been opened, the Electoral Committee shall count out loud the number of ballot papers and verify their validity. If the number of ballot papers is equal to or less than the number of ballot papers issued, the ballot is valid. If it exceeds the number of ballot papers issued, the ballot shall be declared void and a re-vote shall occur immediately in accordance with the procedure described above.

17.2 After the number of ballot papers has been verified, the Electoral Committee shall count the number of votes cast for each candidate.

17.3 Once the count has been completed and verified, the Chairperson shall officially declare the results to the AFF Congress.

17.4 If a second (or subsequent) round of voting is required in accordance with the AFF Statutes, the procedure set out in Articles 14-17 shall be repeated.

18. Minutes

18.1 The official minutes of the AFF Congress shall be drafted and approved in accordance with the AFF Statutes. The Chairperson shall additionally sign the minutes.

18.2 The official minutes shall be distributed to the AFF Member Associations and AFC.

19. Verification of voters

19.1 The members of the AFF General Secretariat are specifically responsible for verifying the identity of the voting delegates and ensuring compliance with the voting procedure.

CHAPTER FOUR: FINAL PROVISIONS

20. Archiving of documents

20.1 The Electoral Committee shall provide all the official documents relating to the elections to the AFF, which is responsible for passing them on to the relevant bodies, where required, and for archiving them in accordance with the AFF Statutes.

21. Appeal

21.1 Appeals against decisions may be lodged exclusively with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (**CAS**) in accordance with the AFF Statutes and/or any entry forms submitted to the Electoral Committee. Appeals shall be subject to the following condition:

21.1.1 the language of arbitration shall be English.

22. Matters not provided for

22.1 All matters relating to any AFF election not covered by this Code and/or the AFF Statutes shall be ruled upon by the Electoral Committee.

23. Enforcement

23.1 This AFF Electoral Code was ratified by the AFF Council when it convened on 2nd July 2022 and comes into force immediately.

Major General Khiev Sameth
President

Winston Lee
General Secretary