

ASEAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Statutes of the Federation

Definition

In interpreting these Statutes and any relevant regulations, the following terms shall be defined unless explicitly stated by the text or indicated by the context:

1. "Association" means "a Football Association recognised as such by FIFA. It is a member of FIFA or AFC, unless a different meaning is evident from the context" .

2. "AFC" means the "Asian Football Confederation".

3. "Association Football" means "the game controlled by FIFA and organised by FIFA, the Confederations, Regional Associations and/or Member Associations in accordance with the Laws of the Game".

4. "ASEAN" means Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

5. "CAS" or "CAS (TAS)" means the "Court of Arbitration for Sport (Tribunal Arbitral du Sport) in Lausanne (Switzerland)".

6. "Club" means a "professional club or an amateur club which participates in Leagues or competitions under the auspices of a Football Association".

7. "Committee" means "any Committee of the AFF as constituted in accordance with these Statutes".

8. "Confederation" means "a group of Member Associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographic region)".

9. "Congress" means "the supreme and legislative body of the AFF".

10. "Council " means "the executive body of the AFF".

11. "Domestic Association" means "an organisation subordinate to a Football Association".

12. "FIFA" means "Fédération Internationale de Football Association".

13. "Football" means, as the context requires, "any or all types of football including without limitation futsal and beach soccer".

14. "Football Association" means "the controlling body for football within a country or territory recognised by the AFF".

15. "Federation" or "AFF" means "Persekutuan Bolasepak ASEAN" (ASEAN Football Federation).

16. “Hybrid” means “a meeting partly in person and partly virtually using virtual meeting technology.”

17. “IFAB” means “The International Football Association Board”.

18. “Intermediary” means “a natural or legal person who, for a fee or free of charge, represents players and/or clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding an employment contract or represents clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding a transfer agreement”.

19. “Laws of the Game” means “the laws of association football issued by the IFAB”.

20. “League” means “a professional league and/or a semi-professional league and/or an amateur league which consists of a combination of clubs within the territory of a Football Association, and which is subordinate to and under the authority of that Football Association”

21. Member Association” or “Members” means “a Football Association which is a member of the AFF and the AFC”.

22. “Officials” means “all office bearers and members of various Committees, managers, coaches, trainers, match officials, medical officials, staff and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in the AFF, Football Associations, Leagues or Clubs as well as other persons obliged to comply with the AFF Statutes (except Players and Intermediaries)”.

23. “Player” means a “professional or semi-professional or amateur football player licensed with a Football Association”.

24. “Region” means the geographic zone composed of Football Associations belonging to the ASEAN Zone as per the AFC Statutes.

25. “Regional Association” means “a group of Member Associations recognised by the AFC that belong to the same geographic zone”.

26. “Regulations” means “without limitation, the rules, regulations, codes, instructions and directives as promulgated by the Council ”.

27. “Stakeholder” means “a person, entity or organisation which is not a Member Association and/or body of FIFA, a Confederation or a Regional Association but has an interest or concern in the AFF’s activities, which may affect or be affected by AFF’s actions, objectives and policies, in particular clubs, players, coaches and professional leagues”.

28. “Simple majority” means “more than fifty percent (50%)”.

29. “Statutes, Regulation Governing the Application of the Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress” means “rules and regulations promulgated by the Congress”.

NB: Unless the context otherwise requires, references to natural persons include both genders and the singular case applies to the plural and vice-versa.

CHAPTER 1: The AFF

ARTICLE 1
TITLE, LEGAL FORM, HEADQUARTERS, LANGUAGE AND CREST

1. The organisation shall be called the "Persekutuan Bolasepak ASEAN" in the Malay language or the "ASEAN Football Federation", in the English language. The abbreviated name of the organisation is "AFF".

2. The AFF is an association registered pursuant to Section 7 of the Societies Act 1966 of the Laws of Malaysia.

3. AFF is a Regional Association recognized by the AFC comprising Member Associations as per Article 7.10 and Article 14 of the AFC Statutes.

4. (1) The headquarters of the AFF shall be at Level 6, Tribeca Residensi (Suite 627), No. 215, Jalan Imbi, 55100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia or such other address as may subsequently be decided by the Council and approved by the Registrar of Societies.

   (2) Subject to the approval of the Registrar of Societies, the AFF may establish a branch in a country other than the country where the headquarter of the AFF is situated.

5. The official language of the AFF shall be English. Each Association shall be responsible for its own translation.

6. Subject to any change as decided by the Council, the crest of AFF shall include a black and white football depicting a geographical representation of the ASEAN region and Australia supported by twelve arms representing the 12 Member Associations of the AFF and the words "ASEAN Football Federation" on top of the football. The colours of the AFF shall be black, white, and orange.

7. Subject to any change as decided by the Council the flag of the AFF shall contain the crest of the AFF situated in the centre over a blue background.

ARTICLE 2
OBJECTIVES AND OBLIGATIONS

1. The objectives of the AFF are to:

    a. To improve, develop and promote Football in the Members' Region in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural, and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes.

    b. To protect the interests of its Member Associations and to foster friendly relationships between and amongst its Member Associations, Football Associations, FIFA, the AFC, other Regional Associations across Asia and recognized by AFC in order to stage inter-regional tournaments and competitions and other organisations.

    c. To organise and manage Football competitions, training and conferences of all types and categories in the Region as well as development projects and workshops.

    d. To use its efforts to ensure that the game of Football is available to and resourced for all who wish to participate in the Region regardless of gender or age.

    e. To draw up regulations and provisions governing the game of Football and all related matters and ensure their enforcement, at all times in accordance with the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA and the AFC.

    f. To promote women's Football, including its development, and to advance full inclusion of women throughout all types of Football and at all levels in the Region, including in governance and technical roles.

    g. To promote integrity, ethics, and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardise the integrity of matches, competitions, players, officials and Member Associations or give rise to the abuse of Football.

    h. To institute strong measures and campaigns against bribery, corruption, drugs, and racism in Football in the Region.

    i. To associate with the ASEAN Secretariat in furtherance of the common objectives of ASEAN through cultural and sporting activities.

    j. To raise funds to finance activities of the AFF.

    k. To purchase, hold or otherwise acquire any real property or any interest in the same which shall be for the benefit of the Federation, or calculated to promote or assist in the promotion of any of the objectives of the Federation as the Council may deem advisable.

l. To improve, develop, manage, mortgage, lease, let or sell any real or personal property of the Federation and to turn the same to profit and advantage in any way that the Council may deem advisable.

m. To do such things and apply such funds as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the above objectives.

n. To make regulations and by-laws as deemed necessary for the implementation of the objectives of the Federation.

o. To form Standing Committees as the Council deems necessary.

p. To work in partnership with Member Association or the League of Member Association to promote and organise Professional League as well as to engage in football related business.

2. The obligations of the AFF are:

a. To comply fully with the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA and the AFC, and relevant decisions of the CAS, at all times and to use its best endeavour to ensure that these are also respected by its Member Associations.

b. To ensure the election of its decision-making bodies.

c. To convene its supreme and legislative body at regular intervals, at least once a year.

d. To submit its Statutes, rules, and regulations (as revised from time to time) to the AFC for approval prior to ratification, and to ensure that its Statutes, rules, and regulations comply with the principles of good governance and all AFC recommendations.

e. To cooperate and work in close collaboration with the AFC and FIFA in all spheres in order to attain the objectives of the AFF, and to take part in activities or programmes organised by the AFC if requested.

f. To respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by the IFAB, as well as the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game issued by FIFA, and to ensure that these are also respected by its Member Associations.

g. Not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised by FIFA and/or the AFC or with Football Associations that have been suspended or expelled from FIFA and/or the AFC.

h. To observe the principles of loyalty, integrity, and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play.

i. To comply with these Statutes, as well as all other rules and regulations of AFF, at all times.

j. To notify FIFA and the AFC promptly of any change in its address and in the name of its principal office bearers.

k. To manage its affairs independently and with no influence from any third parties.

l. To invite the AFC to attend the Congress.

m. To use its best endeavours to organise all AFF competitions in compliance with the AFC and FIFA international calendar.

ARTICLE 3
HUMAN RIGHTS, NEUTRALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

1. The AFF is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.

2. The AFF is neutral in matters of politics and religion.

3. Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, age, physical appearance, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.

4. Harassment of any nature (including sexual harassment) is forbidden.

5. The AFF shall attribute particular attention to the protection of minors throughout all types of Football and all related activities.

6. The AFF shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third parties.

ARTICLE 4
PROMOTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS

1. The AFF shall promote friendly relations between its Member Associations, Clubs, Officials and Players and in society for humanitarian objectives.

2. Every person and organisation involved in the game of Football is obliged to observe the Statutes, Regulations, and the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.

3. The AFF shall, in accordance with these Statutes, provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any dispute that may arise between Member Associations, Clubs, Officials and Players on the territory of the AFF.

ARTICLE 5
LAWS OF THE GAME

1. The AFF and Member Associations shall organise and/or play:

    a) Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) . Only the IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.

    b) Futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA; and

    c) Beach Soccer in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA.

ARTICLE 6
CONDUCT OF PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS

1. Every person and organisation directly or indirectly bound by these Statutes must observe these Statutes and all regulations, directives, and decisions of the AFF, as well as the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA and the AFC, as well as the principle of fair play.

ARTICLE 7
MEMBERSHIP

1. The Congress, upon recommendation of the Council made after consultation with or after having considered the request, if any, of the AFC, shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member Association.

2. Any football association which is responsible for governing and supervising football in all of its forms in its country or territory may become a Member Association.

3. The Member Associations shall be geographically located in the ASEAN region and Australia.

4. Only one (1) Football Association shall be officially recognised by the AFF in each country or territory, as per the AFC Statutes.

5. Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member Association from its due financial obligations towards the AFF or other Member Associations but leads to cancellation of all rights in relation to the AFF.

ARTICLE 8
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership admission application may be examined by the AFC.

2. The AFC may request the AFF Congress to approve or to reject the application.

3. An Association applying for membership shall submit a written application together with its statutes and regulations, to the Federation.

4. The application for membership shall contain the following undertaking: -

   (i) To conform to the Statutes, Regulations and Standing Order of AFF, FIFA and the AFC.

   (ii) To observe the Laws of the Game as laid down by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).

   (iii) Each Association shall inform the Federation of the name and address of the person responsible for conducting, on its behalf, official correspondence.

ARTICLE 9
RIGHTS OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

1. The Member Associations of AFF have the following rights:

   a) to take part in the Congress, to know its agenda in advance, to be called to the Congress within the prescribed time and to exercise their voting rights.

   b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress.

   c) to nominate candidates for all bodies of the AFF that are subject to election.

   d) to be informed of the affairs of the AFF through the official bodies of the AFF.

   e) to take part in the AFF competitions, through their representative teams and clubs and/or other activities or programmes organised by the AFF; and

   f) to benefit from the rights and privileges granted to them by these Statutes and applicable Regulations.

2. The exercise of such rights shall be governed by the provisions of these Statutes and all applicable regulations.

ARTICLE 10
OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

1. Member Associations have the following obligations:

   a) To comply fully with the regulations, statutes, circulars and decisions of FIFA, AFC and AFF and Decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) passed in accordance with Article 55 and/or 56 of the AFF Statutes at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members.

b) to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies.

c) to take part in competitions and other activities or programmes organised by the AFF in particular key competition, activities or programme.

d) to pay their membership subscriptions.

e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by The IFAB as well as the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision.

f) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the Statutes, Regulations, Directives and Decisions of FIFA, AFC and the AFF shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate arbitration tribunal recognised by the AFF, AFC and FIFA and that any recourse to ordinary courts is prohibited.

g) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised by FIFA and the AFC or with Member Associations that have been suspended or expelled.

h) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity, and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision.

i) to observe the mandatory items specified within the relevant Regulations for the duration of their membership.

j) to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated.

k) to recognise each of the other Member Associations as the sole controlling body of Football in their respective countries and territories.

l) to be held responsible for the good conduct and all financial commitments of their Clubs towards the AFF.

m) to notify AFF promptly of any change in its address and in the name of principal office bearers; and

n) to manage its affairs independently and with no influence from any third parties, even if such third-party influence was not the fault of the Member Association concerned.

2. Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member Association may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes. Each Member Association is responsible towards AFF, FIFA and the AFC for all acts of the members of their bodies caused by the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of such members.

ARTICLE 11
SUSPENSION

1. The Congress may suspend a Member Association solely at the request of the Council made after consultation with or after having considered the request, if any, of the AFC.

2. The Council may, after consultation with or after having considered the request, if any, of the AFC, without a vote of the Congress, temporarily suspend with immediate effect a Member Association that seriously violates its obligations or that of the FIFA or the AFC. The temporary suspension approved by the Council shall last until the decision made at the next Congress unless the Council has revoked such suspension prior to the Congress with an approval of AFC if the request for suspension was made by the AFC.

3. A suspension of a Member Association by the Congress requires a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.

4. A suspension of a Member Association by the Council or at the request of the AFC shall be confirmed at the next Congress by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote. If it is not confirmed, such suspension shall be automatically lifted.

5. The Congress may lift the suspension of a Member Association at the request of the Council after consultation with or after having considered the request, if any, of the AFC. The lifting of the suspension of a Member Association by the Congress requires a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.

6. A suspended Member Association shall lose its membership rights. Other Member Associations shall not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member Association.

7. Member Associations which do not participate in at least two (2) of the AFF's competitions (as determined by the Council) over a period of two (2) consecutive years immediately prior to a Congress shall be suspended from voting at the Congress until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

ARTICLE 12
EXPULSION

1. The Congress may expel a Member Association at the request of the Council made after consultation with or after having considered the request , if any, of the AFC, or if :

   (i) It defaults in the payment of dues and/or debts to the Federation.

   (ii) It seriously infringes its own statutes, codes, rules, regulations and standing orders or those of the AFC or FIFA and/or that of the Federation.

   (iii) It loses its status as the controlling body for football in its territory.

(iv) If it hinders the progress of football within the Federation.

(v) It ceases to be a Member of FIFA due to an expulsion

2. The presence of an absolute majority (more than 50%) of the Member Associations eligible to vote at the Congress is necessary for a vote to expel a Member Association to be valid.

3. The motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.

ARTICLE 13
RESIGNATIONS

1. Subject to Article 13.2, a Member Association may resign from the AFF with effect from the end of a calendar year. Notice of resignation shall be in letter form and must reach the General Secretariat no later than six (6) months before the end of the calendar year by registered post or attached to the official email of the Member Association. The resignation shall be made absolute by way of a letter from the AFF sent by registered post or by the email to the Member Association and when the Member has fulfilled its financial and other obligations towards the Federation and its Members.

2. Resignation shall not affect any existing financial obligations towards the AFF or its Member Associations.

ARTICLE 14
STATUS AND RECOGNITION OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

1. The executive body of a Member Association shall be elected by the Congress, even on an interim basis, within the Member Association. The statutes of a Member Association shall provide for a democratic election procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election.

2. The AFF shall not recognise the executive body of a Member Association, even on an interim basis, if it has not been elected in accordance with Article 14.1, except if the executive body is established as a normalisation committee by FIFA, in consultation with the AFC.

3. Only decisions passed by bodies that have been constituted in accordance with Article 14.1 and 14.2 may be recognised by the AFF.

ARTICLE 15
STATUS OF CLUBS, LEAGUES, DOMESTIC ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER GROUPS OF STAKEHOLDERS AFFILIATED TO A MEMBER ASSOCIATION

1. Clubs, Leagues, Domestic Associations or any other groups of stakeholders affiliated to a Member Association shall be subordinate to and recognised by that Member Association.

The Member Association statutes shall define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these Clubs and groups. Their statutes and regulations must be approved by the Member Association.

2. Every Member Association shall ensure that its affiliated Clubs and groups take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.

3. In any case, the Member Association shall ensure that no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) exercise third-party control in any manner whatsoever (in particular through a majority shareholding, a majority of voting rights, a majority of seats on the board of directors or any other form of economic dependence or control etc.) over more than one (1) Club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

ARTICLE 16
HONORARY APPOINTMENTS

1. The Congress may confer the following Honorary appointment on individuals for meritorious services rendered to the AFF upon the recommendation of the Council

   a) Honorary President;

   b) Honorary Vice President;

   c) Honorary Member; and/or

   d) Honorary General Secretary

2. Honorary officials may attend and participate in the Congress without the right to vote.

ARTICLE 17
AFF ORGANISATION REGULATIONS

1. The Council shall establish AFF Organisation Regulations to support and supplement these Statutes if required.

ARTICLE 18
BODIES

1. The Congress is the supreme and legislative body of the AFF.

2. The Council is the executive body of the AFF.

3. The General Secretariat is the administrative body of the AFF.

4. The Standing and Ad Hoc Committees shall assist the Council in the performance of its duties in accordance with these Statutes. The members of the Standing Committees shall hold office over a four-year period until the next Elective Congress.

5. The Independent Committees of the AFF are the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, the Appeal Committee, and the Electoral Committee. They shall fulfil their responsibilities and functions in accordance with these Statutes and the applicable AFF regulations.

6. The independent auditors shall perform all audits of the AFF's accounts and financial statements as required by Malaysian law.

7. The AFF may from time to time establish other bodies which it deems necessary for the development of football in the Region.

8. The bodies of the AFF shall be either elected or appointed by the AFF itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes.

CHAPTER 2: THE CONGRESS

ARTICLE 19
DEFINITION AND COMPOSITION OF THE CONGRESS

1. The Congress is the meeting at which all Member Associations of the AFF convene. It must be held annually. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of the AFF. Only a Congress that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.

2. A Congress may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress.

3. The President shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with the Standing Orders of the Congress.

4. If the circumstances so require, the Congress may be convened by videoconference or in a Hybrid manner. In such a case, the Congress may deliberate and make any decisions, and it shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a Congress duly convened and held in person. However, any Congress held by videoconference shall not be able to decide on any matter involving the election of any office-bearer as that may only be done in person by secret ballot.

5. The honorary officials appointed in accordance with Article 16.1 may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

6. Representatives of the AFC shall take part in the Congress without voting rights.

ARTICLE 20
DELEGATES AND VOTING

1. Each Member Association shall have one (1) vote and is entitled to be represented by a maximum of two (2) delegates to participate in the Congress. One (1) of the two (2) delegates shall exercise the right to vote on behalf of the Member Association.

2. The names of the delegates must reach the General Secretariat at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the Congress indicating the delegate authorised to vote.

3. No delegate shall be allowed to represent more than one (1) Member Association. Only the authorised delegates who are present are entitled to vote. In the event that a Congress is held virtually or in a Hybrid manner, attendance by video conference or by any other means of communication shall constitute presence. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted. When a Congress is held in a Hybrid manner, by teleconference, by video conference or by another means of communication, voting online is permitted.

4. Delegates must belong to the Member Association that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member Association. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.

5. The Council at its discretion invite any person or persons to the Congress who may attend and participate in the Congress without voting rights.

6. The Council and the General Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights.

7. During their term of office, Members of the Council shall not be appointed as delegates for their Member Association.

ARTICLE 21
AREA OF AUTHORITY

1. The Congress has the following authority:

   a) adopting or amending the Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress.

   b) appointing three (3) Members to check the minutes and approving the minutes of the current Congress (cf. Article 26);

   c) electing the Council (cf. Article 31);

   d) electing the independent committee upon the proposal of the Council ;

   e) appointing the scrutineers (cf. Article 26);

   f) approving the financial statements.

   g) approving the budget.

   h) approving the General Secretary's annual report.

   i) appointing the independent auditors upon the proposal of the Council.

   j) fixing the membership subscriptions.

   k) deciding, upon the nomination of the Council, whether to confer honorary titles;

   l) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member Association at the request of the Council made after consultation with or after having considered the request, if any of the AFC;
   m) revoking the mandate of one or a number of members of a body of AFF.

   n) dissolving the AFF; and

   o) consider and act upon proposals submitted by a Member Association or the Council in accordance with these Statutes.

ARTICLE 22
QUORUM OF THE CONGRESS

1. The quorum for the Congress shall be the simple majority (more than 50%) of the Member Associations who are entitled to vote.

ARTICLE 23
DECISIONS OF THE CONGRESS

1. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a proposal or motion shall be passed if supported by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast.

2. Blank ballot papers, spoilt or invalid votes or electronic votes manipulated in any way as well as abstention shall be disregarded in calculating the majority.

3. A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count save in cases of elections which shall be carried out in accordance with the AFF Electoral Code. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a proposal or motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in alphabetical order.

ARTICLE 24
ELECTIONS

1. The AFF Electoral Code and any relevant AFC and FIFA regulations shall govern any elective Congress.

2. The election of office-bearers at the Congress shall be by secret ballot. Where a candidate has no opponent for the seat, they may be elected by acclamation. No voting by letter or proxy is permitted.

3. The position of the President shall be elected as follows:

    a) where there are two (2) candidates on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast of the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is necessary; and

    b) where there are more than two (2) candidates on the first ballot, two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote are necessary. Should no candidate receive two-thirds (2/3) of the votes on the first ballot, all candidates move to the second ballot. From the second ballot (if required) onward, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast of the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is necessary. If no candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot. This process shall continue (if required) until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority is achieved.

4. All other positions listed in these Statutes shall be elected as follows:

    a) Where there is one (1) position available on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes case of the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is necessary. If no candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot. All subsequent ballots shall require the same simple majority to be achieved. This process shall continue until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority is achieved.

    b) Where there is more than one (1) position available on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is necessary. Where:

        i) At least one (1) candidate is elected but not all positions are filled, all remaining candidates shall move into the subsequent ballot.

        ii) No candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot;

    c) All subsequent ballots shall require the same simple majority to be achieved. This process shall continue until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority is achieved

5. The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and members of the Independent Committees shall be elected by the Congress by a simple majority (more than 50% percent).

ARTICLE 25
ORDINARY CONGRESS

1. The Ordinary Congress shall be held annually.

2. The Council shall fix the place and date. Notice of the Ordinary Congress shall be posted to all Member Associations under registered letter, courier service or electronic medium not later than four (4) months before the scheduled date of the Congress unless decided otherwise by the Council.

3. The General Secretary shall, not later than twenty-one (21) days before the date of the Congress, mail to the Member Associations by registered cover the following:

    a) the agenda of the Congress.

    b) the report of the General Secretary.

    c) the Financial Statements and the Auditor's report.

    d) the names of the candidates for election (if applicable);

e) proposals for amendments and/or alterations to the Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the AFF Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress of the AFF (if applicable); and

f) any other proposal submitted by Member Associations or the Council for which due notice has been given.

ARTICLE 26
ORDINARY CONGRESS AGENDA

1. The Agenda of the Congress shall comprise the following:

a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes.

b) the approval of the Congress agenda.

c) an address by the President.

d) the appointment of three (3) members to check the official minutes.

e) the appointment of two (2) scrutineers to check the voting.

f) suspension or expulsion of a Member Association based on the recommendation of the AFC (if applicable);

g) dismissal of a person or body (if applicable);

h) the approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress.

i) the General Secretary's report for the period preceding Congress.

j) the reports of the Committees and bodies.

k) the submission for approval of the Statement of Accounts and the Auditor's Reports;

l) the approval of the budget (if applicable);

m) admission for membership on the recommendation of the Council or AFC (if applicable);

n) the proposals for amendments and alterations to the AFF Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the AFF Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress of the AFF (if applicable);

o) consideration of proposals (if any) submitted by Member Associations or the Council in accordance with these Statutes;

p) appointment of External Auditors (if applicable);

q) to confer Honorary Titles (if applicable);

r) the election of the Independent Committees upon the proposal of the Council (as applicable); and

s) the election, (if applicable) of the :

1. President
2. Four (4) Vice Presidents
3. One (1) AFC Executive Committee Member (representing AFF)
4. Five (5) Council Members
5. One (1) Female Council Member;

2. Any proposal that a Member Association wishes to submit to the Congress shall be sent to the AFF General Secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least six (6) weeks before the date of the Congress.

3. The motion to amend and/or alter the agenda of an Ordinary Congress must be adopted by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.

ARTICLE 27
EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

1. An Extraordinary Congress may be convened:

a) by the Council whenever deemed necessary.

b) in the event the office of the President falls vacant for more than one (1) year; or

c) upon a written request of at least one-third (1/3) of Member Associations within sixty (60) days of receipt of the written request.

2. The date and venue shall be determined by the Council and notified to the Member Associations at least thirty (30) days before the Extraordinary Congress.

3. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened on the initiative of the Council, it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened upon the request of Member Associations, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Member Associations.

4. The motion to amend and/or alter the agenda of an Extraordinary Congress must be adopted by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.

5. An Extraordinary Congress shall be conducted in the same manner as the Ordinary Congress.

ARTICLE 28
AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTES, REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE STATUTES AND THE STANDING ORDER OF THE CONGRESS

1. Only the Congress may amend or alter the Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress.

2. Proposals to amend or alter the Statutes may either be submitted by:

   (i) a Member Association and seconded by one (1) other to the General Secretariat; or
   (ii) the Council.

   The proposals submitted shall be in writing with a brief explanation.

3. Proposals to amend the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress may be submitted by:

   (i) a Member Association to the General Secretariat; or
   (ii) the Council.

   The proposals submitted shall be in writing with a brief explanation.

4. All amendments and alterations to the Statutes shall only be adopted with the approval of three-quarters (3/4) of the votes cast by the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.

5. All amendments to the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and/ or the Standing Orders of the Congress shall be adopted only with the approval of a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast by the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.

6. The presence of an absolute majority (more than 50%) of the Member Associations eligible to vote at the Congress is necessary for a vote to amend or alter the Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes, Standing Orders of the Congress to be valid.

7. No amendments to the Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and/ or the Standing Orders of the Congress shall be made without the prior approval of the Registrar of Societies and an application for any amendment shall be made to the Registrar within sixty days from the date of the decision to make the amendment.

ARTICLE 29
MINUTES

1. The General Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the Congress. The minutes shall be checked by those members designated and finally approved at the next Congress.

ARTICLE 30
EFFECTIVE DATES OF DECISIONS

1. Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect thirty (30) days after the close of the Congress unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

CHAPTER 3: THE COUNCIL, THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE AND THE PRESIDENT

ARTICLE 31
CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

1. The Council shall consist of :

   (a) President – One (1)
   (b) Vice Presidents – Four (4)
   (c) AFC Executive Committee Member (Representing AFF) – One (1)
   (d) Council Members – Five (5)
   (e) Female Council Member – One (1)
   (f) General Secretary (ex-officio without voting right)

   The election shall follow the order set out above for the positions listed in Articles 31.1 (a) to (e).

2. The Council shall consist of twelve (12) members elected from amongst the candidates nominated by the Member Associations for the positions in Article 31(1)(a) to (e).

3. Upon being elected, every member of the Council undertakes, and accepts responsibility, to act in the best interest of the AFF faithfully, loyally, and independently and the promotion and development of football in the Region.

4. Members of the Council shall serve the term of four (4) years and are eligible for re-election. They shall serve no more than three (3) full terms of office (whether consecutive or not). Therefore, members of the Council shall not serve the AFF for more than twelve (12) years in total. A member of the Council shall not at the same time be a member of any of the independent committees.

5. No person shall be elected to the office of President for more than three (3) full terms (whether consecutive or not). Accordingly, the person elected to the office of President shall not serve the AFF as a President for more than twelve (12) years in total. The term or terms served on the previous AFF's Council and the term to be served till its full term in 2023 shall not be considered in determining the term limit of a President.

6. Every candidate nominated is required to submit the relevant documents to the General Secretariat for verification in accordance with the AFF Electoral Code.

7. Candidates for the position of AFC Executive Committee must pass an eligibility check carried out by AFC in accordance with the AFC Statutes and applicable AFC regulations.

8. Candidates for the position of President would be required to pass an eligibility check, of the same level as AFC eligibility check, carried out by the AFF Electoral Committee.

9. Subject to Article 37.2 which relates to candidates for the office of the AFF President, every candidate nominated to the Council for election must be by name and shall be proposed by their Football Association in the prescribed forms. Such nomination shall be submitted to reach the General Secretariat not later than three (3) months before the date of the Congress. Each nomination must be in accordance with the further provisions contained within the AFF Electoral Code.

10. Without prejudice to each Member Association's rights under Article 37.2 which relates to candidates for the office of the AFF President, a Member Association may propose only one (1) candidate for each position in the Council. If a Member Association proposes more than one (1) candidate for a position in the Council, all candidates proposed by that Member Association for that position shall be declared invalid. If at the expiry of the deadline for nomination, no nominations have been received for the position set out in Article 31.1 (e) or a nomination received for the position set out in Article 31.1 (e) is in addition to any one of the positions in Article 31.1 (a)-(d), then all Member Associations who have not nominated a candidate for the position under Article 31.1.(e) shall do so within seven (7) days of being notified. For the avoidance of doubt, the additional time being provided under this provision to submit their nominations for the post set out in Article 31.1 (e), in addition to the nominations already filed by them will not be in violation of the timeline provided in Article 37.9 of these Statutes.

11. No Member Association shall be eligible to be represented by more than one (1) member in the AFF Council. This shall include the member referred to in Article 31.1 (c) of these Statutes.

12. All candidates must be persons who have served football in various capacities at club, regional, national, or international level and citizens of the country represented by their respective Football Association.

13. The General Secretariat shall notify the Member Associations of the names of proposed candidates at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the Congress.

14. The Deputy President shall be appointed by the Council upon the proposal of the President from amongst the elected Vice Presidents. In the absence of an appointment, the longest-serving Vice President shall be deemed to be the Deputy President.

15. If the President ceases to carry out or is prevented from performing her/his duties, the Deputy President shall deputise and assume the powers and responsibility of the President until the next Congress subject to the provisions of Article 27.1 (b).

16. If a position is vacant, the Council, upon the proposal of the President, shall fill that position until the next Ordinary Congress or Extraordinary Congress (if applicable), when a replacement will be elected for the remaining term of mandate. For the avoidance of doubt, the individual who fills that vacancy shall not have the right to vote.

17. If any member of the Council as set out in Article 31.1 ceases to carry out his duties within his Member Association, the Member Association may propose for his removal from the AFF Council, and he may be replaced by the decision of the Congress or Extraordinary Congress.

ARTICLE 32
POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL

1. The Council shall be empowered to make decisions on all matters, which are not exclusive to the Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes, including the release of the funds of the AFF towards the fulfilment of its objectives.

2. The duties of the Council are as follows:

    a) to carry out the objectives of the AFF.

    b) to prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of the AFF.

    c) to ensure that the Statutes are applied, and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application.

    d) to approve regulations stipulating how the AFF shall be organised internally.

    e) to formulate the Rules, Regulations, Standing Orders, and Instructions of the AFF.

    f) to appoint the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and members of the Standing Committees.

    g) to propose to the Congress the individuals to be elected or dismissed as Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons, and members of the Independent Committees.

    h) to set up ad-hoc committees, if necessary, at any time.

    i) to approve and submit to the Congress the following:

        i) the reports of the General Secretary and the various Committees and bodies.

        ii) the Statement of Accounts and the Auditor's Report.

        iii) the budget.

        iv) all proposals for amendments and alterations to the AFF Statutes, AFF Regulations Governing the Application of the AFF Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress of the AFF.

        v) the appointment of the External Auditors; and

vi) other proposals submitted by the Council members in accordance with these Statutes;

j) to appoint and dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President.

k) to relieve a person of their duties in accordance with Article 40.9; and

l) to provisionally dismiss a person or body or provisionally suspend a Member Association until the next Congress on the request of the AFC.

3. The powers and responsibilities of the Council may be defined in greater detail within the AFF Organisation Regulations.

4. The Council may delegate tasks arising out of its areas of authority to the President, other bodies of the AFF or third parties.

ARTICLE 33
MEETINGS AND DECISION

1. The Council shall stipulate the terms of reference of the Council, standing orders for meetings and its ability to make decisions within the AFF Organisation Regulations. If the circumstances so require, the President may convene the Council meeting via teleconference, videoconference, Hybrid meeting or another means of communication. In such a case, the Council may deliberate and make any decision, and it shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a Council meeting duly convened and held in person.

2. The Council shall meet at least once every year.

3. The President shall convene the Council meetings. If fifty percent (50%) of the Council members request a meeting or if the President deems it necessary, the President shall convene it within twenty-one (21) days.

4. Any member of the AFF Council who is absent without a properly accepted apology by the Council for two (2) consecutive meetings or any four (4) meetings during their term shall be provisionally suspended from the AFF Council. A decision shall then be made by the AFF Congress, at the next AFF Congress, which shall be final. Before voting on such a matter, the member of the AFF Council concerned shall be given the opportunity to explain himself or herself in person or in writing.

ARTICLE 34
DISMISSAL OF A PERSON OR BODY

1. The Congress may dismiss a person or body. The Council may place the dismissal of a person or body on the agenda for the Congress. The Council may also dismiss a person or body provisionally until the following Congress. Any Council member may submit a proposal to place such a motion for dismissal on the agenda of the Council.

2. The motion for dismissal must be accompanied by written reasons. It will be sent to the Member Associations of the AFF along with the agenda.

3. The person or body in question has the right to defend himself in front of Council and or the Congress.

4. The Congress shall reach a decision by means of secret ballot. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the valid votes in favour of the motion is required.

5. The person or body dismissed (provisionally) must be relieved of their functions with immediate effect.

ARTICLE 35
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

1. The Council shall stipulate the terms of reference of the Emergency Committee, standing orders for meetings and its ability to make decisions via teleconference, video conference, Hybrid meeting or another means of communication within the AFF Organisation Regulations. If the circumstance so require, the President may convene the Emergency Committee which may deliberate and make any decision, and it shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at an Emergency Committee meeting duly convened and held in person.

2. The Emergency Committee shall deal with all matters requiring immediate settlement between meetings of the Council. The Emergency Committee shall consist of:

   a) the President;

   b) the four (4) Vice Presidents; and

   c) one member appointed by the Council

3. The President shall convene the Emergency Committee meetings.

4. Decisions of the Emergency Committee shall have immediate effect. The President shall notify the Council immediately of the decisions passed by the Emergency Committee.

ARTICLE 36
THE PRESIDENT

1. The President represents the AFF generally.

2. The President shall aim to foster a positive image of AFF and to ensure that the AFF's mission, strategic direction, policies and values, as defined by the Council, are protected and advanced.

3. The President shall seek to maintain and develop good relations between and among AFF, Regional Associations, AFC, FIFA, the Confederations, Member Associations, Stakeholder groups, political bodies and international organisations.

4. The President chairs the Congress and meetings of the Council and Emergency Committee. The President shall have one (1) ordinary vote on the Council and the Emergency Committee and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote.

5. The President shall be an ex officio member in all Standing Committees without the right to vote.

6. The President shall propose a Deputy President from amongst the four Vice-Presidents. If the President is absent or unavailable, the Deputy President shall deputise.

7. The powers and responsibilities of the President may be defined in greater detail in the AFF Organisation Regulations.

8. The President may delegate tasks arising out of his areas of authority to the Council and to the General Secretariat.

ARTICLE 37
CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE AFF PRESIDENT

1. The President shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four (4) years. The mandate shall begin after the end of the Congress which has elected him. A President may be re-elected subject to the provisions of Article 31.

2. Candidates for the position of President shall be valid only if nominated by one Member Association and seconded by another Member Association (but not necessarily the Member Association that they represent).

3. Candidates for the position of President shall have played an active role in Football (e.g. as a Player or an Official within FIFA, a Confederation, a Regional Association or an Association) for two (2) of the last five (5) years before being proposed as a candidate.

4. Any Member Association that wishes to nominate a candidate for the position of President must submit the prescribed form to the General Secretariat not later than three (3) months before the date of the Congress. Each nomination must be in accordance with the further provisions contained within the AFF Electoral Code.

5. The General Secretariat shall notify the Member Associations of the names of proposed candidates for the office of the President at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the Congress.

CHAPTER 4: THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

ARTICLE 38
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

1. The General Secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of the AFF under the direction of the General Secretary. Members of the General Secretariat shall abide by AFF's internal regulations and shall carry out the tasks entrusted to them in the best possible manner.

ARTICLE 39
THE GENERAL SECRETARY

1. The General Secretary shall be the Chief Executive of the General Secretariat and shall work under the direction of the President and the Council.

2. The General Secretary shall be appointed and dismissed by the Council upon the proposal of the President. The General Secretary shall report to the Council.

3. The General Secretary shall:

    a) implement decisions passed by the Congress and the Council in accordance with the instructions of the President.

    b) be responsible for the administration of the General Secretariat.

    c) be responsible for the appointment and discipline of all staff of the General Secretariat.

    d) organise, assist and participate in the Congress, Council, Emergency and Committee meetings;

    e) be responsible for the minutes of all meetings.

    f) be responsible for all publications of the AFF.

    g) be responsible for all correspondence of the AFF.

    h) liaise with FIFA, AFC, Confederations, Regional Associations, Member Associations and any other organisation in the promotion of the objectives of the AFF.

    i) manage and keep the accounts of the AFF properly; and

    j) sign decisions on behalf of any AFF Committee, provided that no other ruling exists in the relevant regulations.

4. Additional powers of the General Secretary, including the authority to represent AFF shall be provided by the AFF Organisation Regulations.

5. In the absence of the General Secretary, an Acting General Secretary shall be appointed by the Council upon the proposal of the President.

6. The General Secretary shall attend all Standing Committee meetings of the AFF as an ex officio official without the right to vote. In the event the General Secretary is unable to attend the Standing Committee meeting, the General Secretary shall appoint a representative(s) from the General Secretariat to attend on his behalf.

7. The General Secretary shall not be a Congress delegate or a member of any body of the AFF.

CHAPTER 5: THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND JUDICIAL BODIES

ARTICLE 40
STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The Standing Committees of the AFF are the:

    a) Finance Committee.

    b) Competitions Committee.

    c) Referees Committee.

    d) Women's Football Committee.

    e) Legal Committee.

    f) Development Committee; and

    g) Marketing and Communications Committee.

2. The Standing Committees shall report to the Council. They shall advise and assist the Council in their respective fields of function.

3. The terms of reference of each Standing Committee, standing orders for meetings and their ability to make decisions are governed by the AFF Organisation Regulations. If the circumstances so require, a meeting of the Standing Committee might be held via teleconference, videoconference, Hybrid meeting and another means of communication. In such a case, the Standing Committee may deliberate and make any decision, and it shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a Standing Committee meeting duly convened and held in person.

4. Members of the Council may be appointed as Chairpersons of the Standing Committees. The members of each Standing Committee shall be appointed by the Council on the proposal of the Member Associations or the President. The Council shall try to ensure appropriate female representation on the Standing Committees. The term of office for the members of each Standing Committee is four (4) years.

5. Members may be reappointed and may also be relieved of their duties at any time in accordance with the AFF Organisation Regulations. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy on a Standing Committee shall have the right to vote.

6. Each Chairperson shall conduct business in compliance with these Statutes and the AFF Organisation Regulations drawn up by the Council.

7. The dates of meetings of each Standing Committee shall be fixed by the General Secretariat in consultation with the relevant Chairperson.

8. Any decisions and/or policies made by a Standing Committee must be either in accordance with a delegation from the Council or subsequently ratified by the Council, in order to take effect.

9. Any member of a Standing Committee who is absent for two (2) consecutive meetings or any four (4) meetings during their term without a properly accepted apology is automatically suspended. A decision shall then be made by the Council whether to dismiss the member, which shall be final.

10. Each Standing Committee may propose amendments to its terms of reference within the AFF Organisation Regulations to the Council.

ARTICLE 41
FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. The Finance Committee shall consist of a Chairperson who shall be a member of the Council and as many members deemed necessary and shall:

    a) frame rules of financial procedures and shall regulate the income and expenditure of the Federation.

    b) advise the Council on financial matters and the management of the Federation's property and assets.

    c) monitor the financial administration of the AFF and advise the Council on financial matters and asset management.

    d) prepare estimates of income and expenditure for specific projects approved by the Council; and

    e) analyse the AFF budget and financial statements prepared by the General Secretary for submission to the Council and the Congress for approval.

ARTICLE 42
COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

1. The Competitions Committee shall consist of a Chairperson who shall be a member of the Council and as many members deemed necessary and shall :

    a) organise and manage AFF competitions and matches including making decisions on any matters and formulating the Rules & Regulations related to these competitions and matches in accordance with these Statutes and all relevant Regulations, and

    b) To undertake any other duties given by the Council in the field of competitions.

ARTICLE 43
REFEREES COMMITTEE

1. The Referees Committee shall consist of a Chairperson who shall be a member of the Council and as many members deemed necessary and shall:

    a) study proposals on refereeing and review proposed amendments to the Laws of the Game and advise AFF Council and related Standing Committees accordingly.

    b) appoint the referees, assistant referees, and referee assessors for all AFF competitions and set guidelines for these appointments; and

    c) approve a panel of AFF Referees and Assistant Referees, Referee Assessors and Referee Instructors on a yearly basis.

ARTICLE 44
WOMEN'S FOOTBALL COMMITTEE

1. The Women's Football Committee shall consist of a Chairperson who shall be a member of the Council and as many members deemed necessary and shall deal with all matters related to women's football in accordance with these Statutes and all relevant Regulations.

ARTICLE 45
LEGAL COMMITTEE

1. The Legal Committee shall consist of a Chairperson who shall be a member of the Council and as many members deemed necessary. The Chairperson shall have legal qualifications. The members shall have legal qualifications or related experience. The Legal Committee shall:

    a) as requested by the Council, the President, the General Secretary or on the Legal Committee's own initiative, consider and advise on the management of legal issues that relate to and might reasonably affect the interests of the AFF, in respect of the game of Football, and the Statutes, Rules and Regulations of the AFF or its Member Associations.

    b) report to the Council on any legal issue identified by the Committee as a matter requiring the attention of the Council, the Congress or other AFF bodies which has not been dealt with by such competent bodies; and

    c) assist the Council, the President or the General Secretary, when so required, to obtain legal advice or other legal services from the AFF's legal advisers and assist in the review of any legal advice provided to the Regional Association.

ARTICLE 46
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. The Development Committee shall consist of a Chairperson who shall be a member of the Council and as many members from different Member countries deemed necessary and shall be responsible for and supervise the implementation of development programs.

2. The duties of the Development Committee shall be as follows:-

   (i) to make a schedule of development activities according to the needs of the Member Associations.

   (ii) to outline the details of the activities.

   (iii) to recommend to the Council the subsidy for each type of activity.

   (iv) to report to the Council from time to time on the implementation of the activities and their effectiveness.

   (v) to undertake any other details given by the Council in the field of football development.

   (vi) generally to be responsible for and to supervise the implementation of development programs.

ARTICLE 47
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

1. The Marketing and Communication Committee shall consist of a Chairperson who shall be a member of the Council and four other members.

2. The Marketing and Communications Committee shall advise the Council on the AFF marketing strategies and policies as well as in negotiating, drafting and implementing contracts between the AFF and its various marketing partners. They shall also be responsible for all media operations and liaison with international media agencies. They may be required to undertake any other duties given by the Council in the field of Media.

CHAPTER 6: INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 48
ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

1. The Electoral Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and three (3) members for the Electoral Committee to function properly.

2. The responsibilities and functions of the Electoral Committee shall be stipulated in the AFF Electoral Code.

   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 in accordance with the AFF Electoral Code.

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

4. In the event that any member of the Electoral Committee:

   a. submits a candidature for an election; or

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

   c. 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.

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

6. 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 election and have no identifiable conflict of interest.

ARTICLE 49
JUDICIAL BODIES

1. The judicial bodies of the AFF are:

   a) the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee; and

   b) the Appeal Committee.

2. The responsibilities and functions of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee shall be stipulated in the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

3. The decision-making powers of other committees remain unaffected. The members of the judicial bodies shall not belong to any other body of the AFF at the same time except the Electoral Committee.

4. The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the judicial bodies shall be elected by the Congress en bloc and shall not be members of any other AFF body. Their terms shall last four (4) years, beginning at the end of the Congress which has elected them. The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the judicial bodies may only be relieved of their duties by the Congress.

ARTICLE 50
DISCIPLINARY AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

1. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and the number of members deemed necessary by the Council for the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee to function properly. The Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson shall have legal qualifications. The members shall have legal qualifications or related experience.

2. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes, Directives, Regulations and the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code on all parties set out in these Statutes and the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

3. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may propose amendments to the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code directly to the Council. The Legal Committee shall be promptly notified of such proposed amendments.

4. These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Congress with regard to the suspension and expulsion of a Member Association .

ARTICLE 51
APPEAL COMMITTEE

1. The Appeal Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and the number of members deemed necessary by the Council for the Appeal Committee to function properly. The Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson shall have legal qualifications. The members shall have legal qualifications or related experience.

2. The Appeal Committee shall have jurisdiction to hear appeals arising from decisions of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee that are not declared final pursuant to the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

ARTICLE 52

SANCTIONS

1. The AFF may impose the following sanctions for any violation of its Statutes or Regulations on:

   a) for individuals:

      i) warning.

      ii) fine.

      iii) caution.

      iv) expulsion.

      v) match suspension.

      vi) ban from team dressing room and/or team bench.

      vii) ban from entering a stadium.

      viii) ban on taking part in any football-related activity.

      ix) withdrawal of a title or award

      x) confiscation; and

      xi) social work.

   b) for Member Association and Clubs:

      i) warning.

      ii) fine.

      iii) full or partial Stadium closure.

      iv) order to play a match on neutral territory.

      v) ban on playing in a particular Stadium.

      vi) annulment of the result of the match.

      vii) disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition.

      viii) defeat by forfeit.

ix) deduction of points (for a current or future competition);

x) relegation to a lower division.

xi) order that a match be replayed.

xii) withdrawal of a title and award.

xiii) confiscation.

xiv) withholding of revenues from an AFF competition.

xv) prohibition on registering new players in AFF competition.

xvi) restriction on the number of players that a Club may register for participation in AFF competition.

xvii) withdrawal of a licence to participate in AFF competition; and

xviii) social work.

CHAPTER 7: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

ARTICLE 53
COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)

1. The AFF recognises the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland) to resolve disputes between the AFF and the Confederations, Regional Associations, Member Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Players, Officials, Intermediaries and licensed match agents.

2. The provisions of the CAS Code of Sports–related Arbitration shall apply to the proceedings.

3. The CAS shall apply the various regulations of the AFF.

ARTICLE 54
DISPUTES

1. The Member Associations shall agree to recognise CAS as an independent judicial authority and to ensure that their members, affiliated Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials comply with the decisions passed by CAS. The same obligation shall apply to Intermediaries and licensed match agents.

2. Recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited unless specifically provided for in any FIFA, AFC or AFF Regulations. Recourse to ordinary courts of law for all types of provisional measures is also prohibited.

3. Any violation of this Article shall be sanctioned in accordance with these Statutes.

ARTICLE 55
DISPUTES OF NATIONAL DIMENSION

1. Member Associations shall insert a clause in their statutes or regulations stipulating that it is prohibited to take disputes within the Member Association or disputes affecting Leagues, Clubs, members of Clubs, Players, Officials and other Member Association Officials to ordinary courts of law, unless FIFA regulations, AFC regulations, AFF regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to ordinary courts of law.

2. Such disputes in the last instance shall be referred to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognised under the rules of the Member Association or to the CAS.

3. Member Associations shall ensure that the stipulation in Article 55.1 is implemented within the Member Association, if necessary, by imposing a binding obligation on its members. Member Associations shall impose sanctions on any party that fails to respect

this obligation and ensure that any appeal against such sanctions shall likewise be strictly submitted to arbitration, and not to ordinary courts of law.

ARTICLE 56
JURISDICTION OF CAS AS AN ORDINARY COURT OF ARBITRATION

1. CAS shall have jurisdiction, to the exclusion of any ordinary court or any other court of arbitration, to deal with the following disputes in its capacity as an ordinary court of arbitration:

   a) disputes between the AFF and Confederations, Regional Associations, Member Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Players and/or Officials; and

   b) disputes of international dimension between Member Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Players and/or Officials.

2. CAS shall only intervene in its capacity as an ordinary court of arbitration if the dispute does not fall within the competence of an AFF body.

ARTICLE 57
JURISDICTION OF CAS AS AN APPEALS ARBITRATION BODY

1. Any final decision made by an AFF body may be disputed exclusively before CAS in its capacity as an appeals arbitration body, to the exclusion of any ordinary court or any other court of arbitration.

2. Recourse may only be made to CAS after all other internal AFF channels have been exhausted. Appeals shall be lodged with CAS within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of the decision in question. The relevant AFF regulations may contain further stipulations or amend this time limit.

3. CAS does not deal with appeals arising from:

   a) violations of the Laws of The Game;

   b) suspensions of up to four (4) matches or up to three (3) months (with the exception of doping decisions);

   c) decisions which any Regulations declare as final and binding and not appealable; or

   d) decisions against which an appeal to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognised under the rules of a Member Association may be made.

4. The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect. The appropriate AFF bodies, or alternatively, CAS may order the appeal to have a suspensive effect.

5. Only parties directly affected by a decision may appeal to CAS.

6. AFC, FIFA and the World Anti-Doping Agency are entitled to appeal to CAS against any internally final and binding doping-related decision passed by the AFF.

CHAPTER 8: MISCELLANEOUS

ARTICLE 58
FINANCES

1. The financial period of the AFF shall be one (1) year and shall commence on 1 January of each year.

2. The revenue and expenses of the AFF shall be responsibly managed, including where appropriate the creation of reserves.

3. The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of the AFF with its subsidiaries as of 31 December every year.

ARTICLE 59
REVENUE

1. The revenue of the AFF arises specifically from:

    a) Member Associations' annual subscriptions.

    b) receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which the AFF is entitled.

    c) fines imposed by the authorised bodies.

    d) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by the AFF.

    e) Donations, levies on both competitive and friendly matches played between Members and other Member Associations and sponsorship ;

    f) FIFA Forward Programme

    g) AFC Enhance Regional Association Fund; and

    h) any other means deemed proper by the Council.

ARTICLE 60
EXPENSES

1. The AFF bears:

    a) the expenses stipulated in the budget.

    b) other expenses approved by the Congress and expenses that the Council is entitled to incur within the scope of its authority; and

c) all other expenses in keeping with the objectives pursued by the AFF.

ARTICLE 61
EXTERNAL AUDITORS

1. Independent External Auditors shall be appointed by the Congress which shall examine and certify the accounts approved by the Finance Committee before the same is presented to the Council and the Congress.

2. The independent External Auditors shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years which may be renewed.

ARTICLE 62
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

1. Each Member Association shall pay a standard annual subscription of five hundred (500) US Dollars due by 1 January of each calendar year. The annual subscription for new Member Associations for the year in question shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the close of the Congress at which they were admitted.

2. A Member Association which has not paid its subscription by the 1st day of April of the same year shall be suspended from being a member of the AFF unless a reason for non-payment acceptable to the Council is submitted. The notification of the suspension of membership shall be sent by the Secretary of AFF by registered letter. On payment of the subscription in arrears, the Association concerned shall automatically regain all its rights.

ARTICLE 63
SETTLEMENT

1. The AFF may debit any Member Association's accounts to settle claims.

ARTICLE 64
COMPETITIONS

1. The AFF shall organise its official competitions to be held within the region. AFC Competitions shall not be affected by this article.

2. The Council shall determine the official competitions to be organised and coordinated by the AFF. The Council shall decide the venue for the final competitions organised by the AFF.

3. The Council may delegate to Member Associations the authority to organise competitions.

4. The Council may set up regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of AFF competitions.

5. By the act of entering its team to a competition organised by the AFF, each Member Association and/or Club affiliated to a Member Association agrees to comply with the Statutes, Rules and Regulations, Directives and Decisions of FIFA, AFC, AFF and their bodies.

6. The admission to an AFF competition of a Member Association or Club directly or indirectly involved in any activity aimed at arranging or influencing the outcome of a match at national or international level can be refused with immediate effect, without prejudice to any possible disciplinary measures.

ARTICLE 65
CLUB LICENSING

1. The Council shall define a club licensing system governing:

   a) the minimum criteria to be fulfilled by clubs in order to be admitted to AFF competitions.

   b) the licensing process (including the minimum requirements for the licensing bodies); and

   c) the minimum requirements to be observed by the licensors.

ARTICLE 66
RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

1. The AFF is the owner of all rights emanating from competitions and other events organised by AFF, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These right include, among others, every kind of commercial rights, audio-visual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.

2. The Council shall decide how and to what extent the AFF rights are utilised and may draw up special regulations pertaining to this. The Council shall alone decide whether the AFF rights shall be utilised exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.

ARTICLE 67
AUTHORISATION

1. The AFF and its Member Associations are exclusively responsible for authorising the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of football matches and events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and technical and legal aspects.

ARTICLE 68
PUBLICATION OF CORPORATE DOCUMENTS

1. AFF shall make available on its official website the following documents and information:

    a. Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress.

    b. Electoral Code.

    c. Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

    d. Internal Organization Regulations.

    e. Most important/key decisions.

    f. AFF Strategy, vision and mission.

    g. Agenda for the Council and Congress meetings; and

    h. Circular letters

ARTICLE 69
MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

1. All matters not provided for in the Statutes or in cases of force majeure shall be resolved by the Council unless decided otherwise by the Congress.

ARTICLE 70
DISSOLUTION

1. The AFF may be dissolved by a resolution to that effect passed by not less than three-quarters (3/4) of the Member Associations eligible to vote.

2. In the event of the AFF being dissolved as provided above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the AFF shall be fully discharged and the remaining costs or surplus shall be entrusted to the AFF Member Associations until such time as the AFF is re-established.

3. Notice of dissolution shall be given within fourteen days of the dissolution to the Registrar of Societies.

ARTICLE 71
ADMINISTRATION OF PROPERTY

1. The movable property of the AFF shall be vested in the name of the AFF and shall not, if determined by the Finance Committee, be purchased or acquired without first obtaining the approval of the Council by way of a Resolution and shall be dealt with in accordance with the terms of the Resolution passed by the Council.

2. The immovable property of the AFF shall be registered in the name of the AFF and in compliance with Section 9(b) of the Societies Act 1966, all instruments relating to the immovable property shall be executed by three (3) office bearers for the time being of the AFF and whose appointments are authenticated by a certificate of the Registrar of Societies and sealed with the seal of the AFF. The Council shall appoint the President, one Vice President and the General Secretary, as the Property Administration Officers. They will serve in the capacity for the duration of their term of office. They will automatically cease to hold that position when their term of or their office ends.

3. In the event that a post falls vacant, the Council shall appoint another person of a similar or lower appointment to fill the vacancy.

4. An immovable property shall not be purchased or acquired without first obtaining the approval of the Council by way of a Resolution and shall be dealt with in accordance with the terms of the Resolution passed by the Council.

5. Where relevant, the Resolution shall also seek approval of the Council for the execution of the contract for the purchase or acquisition, lease, development, mortgage, management, enhancement, and the division of the said immovable property.

6. An immovable property of the AFF shall not be sold, leased, mortgaged, developed, enhanced, divided or transferred without first obtaining the approval of the Council by way of a Resolution passed by the Council.

7. Where relevant, the Resolution shall also seek approval of the Council for the execution of the contract for the sale, lease, mortgage, development, enhancement, transfer, re-mortage, management, enhancement and the division of the said immovable property.

ARTICLE 72
TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

1. The current Council members comprising of 15 Members shall continue to hold position until an election for all the positions listed in Article 31.1 of these Statutes is held at the next in-person AFF Elective Congress, taking place anytime from November 2022 or later.

2. For the avoidance of doubt, the current term of the Council Members shall not be considered in determining the term limit of a Council member. The term limit of 12 years referred to in Article 31.3 shall only start from the new term.

ARTICLE 73
ADOPTION OF STATUTES

1. These Statutes were adopted by the AFF Congress on 2nd July 2022. They supersede all previous texts and come into force immediately.

President	**General Secretary**
Major General Khiev Sameth	Winston Lee