Qatar Football Association Statutes

CONTENT

Definitions

I. General Provisions

II. Membership

III. Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members

IV. Organisation

- *A. General Assembly*
- *B. Executive Committee*
- *C. President*
- *D. Vice-President*
- *E. General Secretary and General Secretariat*
- *F. Standing Committees*
- *G. Judicial Bodies*
- H. *Other Bodies*

V. Finance

VI. Competitions and Rights in Competitions and Events

VII. International Matches and Competitions

VIII. Final Provisions

DEFINITIONS

The terms given below denote the following:

QFA: Qatar Football Association.

AFC: Asian Football Confederation.

Arbitration Tribunal: private court of justice acting instead of an Ordinary Court.

Association Football: the game controlled by FIFA and organized in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

CAS (TAS): Court of Arbitration for Sport (Tribunal Arbitral du Sport).

Club: a football club company or a (multi-) sports club, organizing its football activities, which is a Member of the QFA.

Confederation: a group of national associations recognized by FIFA and belonging to the same continent (or similar geographic area).

Executive Committee: the executive body of the QFA.

FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

Football Agent: a natural person licensed by FIFA to perform Football Agent Services.

General Assembly: the supreme body of the QFA.

Groups of Clubs: any other organization, different from the QSLM, being a separate legal entity from the QFA as well as subordinate to and recognized by the QFA, if any.

IFAB: The International Football Association Board.

Match Agent: a natural or legal person as defined in accordance with the applicable FIFA regulations governing such matter.

Member: a natural or legal person that has been admitted into membership of the QFA by the General Assembly.

National Association: a football association recognized by and a member of FIFA and a Confederation.

Officials: any board member, committee member, coach, referee and assistant referee, trainer and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters at QFA, a league, a Club or a Member of the QFA as well as all other persons obliged to comply with the QFA Statutes.

Ordinary Courts: state courts which hear public and private legal disputes.

Player: a player registered with the QFA, as well as a player playing with the QFA representative team(s).**QPA:** Qatar Players Association.

QADC: Qatar Anti-Doping Commission, which has been established by the QOC to carry out the anti-doping functions as the independent anti-doping organisation in Qatar, including the Qatar Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel and Qatar Anti-Doping Appeal Panel.

QOC: Qatar Olympic Committee.

QSAT: the independent and duly constituted Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal, which operates under the Qatar Sports Arbitration Foundation.

QSLM: Qatar Stars League Management – an organization subordinate to and recognized by the QFA.

WADA: World Anti-Doping Agency.

NB: References to natural persons include both genders. The singular case applies to the plural and vice-versa.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 Establishment and nature

1 The QFA was established in 1960 and has its headquarters located in Doha (State of Qatar). It is a private institution of public benefit in accordance with the laws of the State of Qatar. The QFA is a non–profit and an independent sports association. Subject to the applicable laws, the QFA is independent when performing its legal capacities. It is formed for an unlimited period. The location of the QFA may only be transferred following a resolution of the General Assembly.

2 The QFA is a member of FIFA, AFC and QOC.

3 The QFA shall at all time have a logo to be decided by the Executive Committee.

4 The abbreviation of the Qatar Football Association is Q.F.A. or QFA.

5 The QFA is the sole and exclusive rightsholder with regards to the logo and abbreviation, which may not be used by and other natural and/or legal person, except with prior written authorization.

Article 2 Aims and objectives

1 The aims of the QFA are to manage the affairs and all aspects of the sport of football in the State of Qatar. The QFA shall have the right to take all necessary actions and exploit all direct and indirect means, which assist in advancing its aims.

2 The objectives of the QFA are:

a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of the State of Qatar in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural, and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programs;

b) to organize competitions in Association Football in all its forms at a national level, apart from the organisation of competitions under the area of authority conceded to the QSLM by the Executive Committee as specified in these Statutes;

c) to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;

d) to protect the interests of its Members;

e) 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 Members or give rise to abuse of Association Football, futsal or beach soccer;

f) to strengthen friendship and respect between Qatari Officials and Players as well as their counterparts in other countries through competitions they are participating in;

g) to co-operate with or assist Members in a way as deemed appropriate by the QFA;

h) to use its efforts to ensure that the game of football is available to and resourced for all who wish to participate, regardless of the age and gender;

i) to promote the development of women's football;

j) to respect, observe and ensure the application and enforcement of the statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the code of ethics of FIFA, the AFC, the QOC and the QFA as well as the QADC Anti-Doping Rules subject to any other provisions of these Statutes;

k) to prevent any infringement of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, of AFC and the QFA as well as the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players;

l) to combat the use of prohibited substances as stipulated by FIFA, QADC and WADA;

m) to prepare and supervise the selection of national teams to represent the State of Qatar in Olympic, international, continental as well as regional tournaments and championships;

n) to control and supervise all friendly football matches of all forms played throughout the territory of the State of Qatar, Association Football, futsal and beach soccer at national level as well as all forms of international football matches played throughout the territory of Qatar, in accordance with the relevant Statutes and regulations of FIFA and of the Confederations;

o) to co-operate with IFAB in all matters relating to the game of football or the rules and regulations affecting the same;

p) to host competitions and matches at international and other levels;

q) to organize studies, researches and conferences related to Association Football and its affairs.

Article 3 Human rights, non-discrimination, equality and neutrality

1 QFA is committed to respecting all nationally and internationally recognized human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.

2 Discrimination and/or defamation 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, politics, 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.

3 Any act of discrimination and/or defamation will be sanctioned in accordance with the provisions of the QFA Disciplinary Code/Code of Ethics which shall comply with the FIFA and AFC disciplinary/ethics codes governing such aspects.

4 QFA remains neutral in matters of politics and religion. Exceptions may be made with regards to matters affected by QFA's statutory objectives.

Article 4 Legislation

The legislation applicable to the QFA is:

a) the QFA Statutes;

b) the QFA rules, regulations, circulars and directives;

c) the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB;

d) the statutes and regulations of FIFA and the AFC;

e) in doping related matters, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the QADC Anti-Doping Rules and the WADA Anti-Doping Code apply in full. In the event of any discrepancies, the provisions set out in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations shall prevail.

Article 5 Delimitation of competences

1 The QFA has the authority over the sport of football in the State of Qatar. It is the sole reference for the game of football in the State of Qatar.

2 Subject to the applicable laws, neither the QOC nor any other Qatari authority/entity shall have any control or supervisory authority on the QFA, which is fully independent and manages its affairs with complete autonomy.

Article 6 Promoting friendly relations

1 The QFA shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players, the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.

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

3 The QFA shall provide the necessary means to resolve internal disputes that may arise between Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of the QFA.

Article 7 Players

1 The status of Players, the provisions for their transfer, as well as questions related to these matters, shall be regulated by the Executive Committee of the QFA in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

2 Players shall be registered in accordance with the QFA's regulations governing such matter.

Article 8 Laws of the Game

1 The QFA and each of its Members play Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB. Only IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.

2 The QFA and each of its Members play futsal and beach soccer in compliance with the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game issued by FIFA. Only FIFA may lay down and alter the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.

Article 9 Conduct of bodies, Members and Officials

The bodies of the QFA, Members and Officials must observe the statutes, codes, regulations, directives, decisions and circulars of FIFA, the AFC and the QFA, as well as, pertaining to doping related matters, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the QADC Anti-Doping Rules and the WADA Anti-Doping Code in their activities.

Article 10 Official language

1 The official language of the QFA shall be Arabic. Official documents and texts shall be written in this language. Where necessary, official documents and texts may be written in English. In the event of any divergence between the interpretation of texts in different languages the Arabic text shall be authoritative.

2 The official language at the General Assembly shall be Arabic.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Article 11 Admission, suspension and expulsion

1 The General Assembly shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.

2 Membership may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of the QFA.

3 Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member from its financial obligations towards the QFA, QSLM or other Members, but leads to cancellation of all rights in relation to QFA.

Article 12 Composition

The Members of the QFA are:

a) Clubs;

b) QSLM;

c) other leagues or Groups of Clubs subordinate to and recognized by the QFA.

Article 13 Application for membership

1 Applications shall be addressed in form of an official letter to the general secretariat of the QFA.

2 The application for membership must be accompanied by the following mandatory items:

a) two copies of the applicant's legally valid statutes, articles of association or by-laws as well as its regulations;

b) the applicant's official name, date of establishment and contact details;

c) licence, company registration or other means of proof issued by the competent authority in the State of Qatar in confirmation that the applicant has been established in accordance with the laws of the State of Qatar;

d) a declaration that its headquarters and playground or venue activity are located and registered, if any, in the territory of the State of Qatar;

e) a declaration that it will comply with the statutes, regulations and decisions of QFA, FIFA and AFC and it will ensure that these are also respected by its own members, Officials and Players;

f) a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game in force;

g) a declaration that it will not take matters of interpretation and application of the QFA, FIFA and AFC statutes, regulations, decisions and directives to Ordinary Courts, unless the QFA, FIFA, or AFC statutes/regulations provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts;

h) a declaration that it recognizes the QSAT and the CAS, as specified in these Statutes;

i) a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of the State of Qatar;

j) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;

k) a list of its Officials, their name, address, title and position, specifying those who are authorized signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;

l) a declaration that it undertakes to organize or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of the QFA;

m) a copy of the minutes of its last general assembly or constitutional meeting; and

n) any other document the QFA deems necessary with regards to the application and under discretionary powers of the QFA.

3 An application shall be submitted at least forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting date of the General Assembly, which decides on the applicant's request for admission.

4 This article shall not affect the status of existing Members.

Article **14** Procedure of admission

1 The procedure for admission shall be regulated by special regulations approved by the Executive Committee.

2 The Executive Committee, which insofar shall have discretionary powers, may decide to not proceed with an application and to not request the General Assembly to vote on admission/non-admission. In the event of proceeding with an application, the Executive Committee may request the General Assembly either to admit or not to admit an applicant. The decision to admit or not admit an applicant is at the entire discretion of the General Assembly. The applicant may state the reasons for its application to the General Assembly.

3 Subject to Article 24 par. 1 lit. a) of these Statutes, the new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties immediately upon conclusion of the General Assembly in which it has been admitted.

4 In case of non-admission, the reasons for rejection shall be communicated to the applicant by registered letter within sixty (60) days. The applicant may reapply for membership after abolition of the reasons for non-admission of the first application.

Article 15 Members' rights

1 The Members of the QFA have the following rights:

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

b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly provided that such proposals have the support of at least one-fifth (1/5) of the Members and fall under the specific areas of authority of the General Assembly;

c) to nominate candidates for all bodies of the QFA to be elected;

d) to be informed of the affairs of the QFA through the official bodies of the QFA;

e) to take part, according to sporting qualifications, in competitions and/or other sports activities organized by the QFA/the QSLM;

f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of the QFA.

2 The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and the applicable regulations.

Article 16 Members' obligations

1 The Members of the QFA have the following obligations:

a) to fully comply with the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the QFA, FIFA, AFC and the QADC at all times as well as with the awards of CAS and QSAT 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 sports activities organized by the QFA/QSLM;

d) to pay their membership subscriptions;

e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by IFAB and the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as laid down 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 involving itself or one of its members and relating to the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the QFA, QSLM, FIFA or the AFC shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate Arbitration Tribunal or judicial body of the QFA, FIFA or the AFC and that any recourse to Ordinary Courts is prohibited;

g) to communicate to the QFA any amendment of its statutes and regulations as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorized signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;

h) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognized or with Members that have been suspended or expelled;

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

j) to maintain a register of their members which shall regularly be updated;

k) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the statutes and other regulations of the QFA, FIFA and AFC;

l) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the QFA Statutes.

2 Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes.

Article **17** Suspension

1 The General Assembly is responsible for suspending a Member. The Executive Committee may, however, provisionally suspend a Member that seriously violates its obligations with immediate effect. The provisional suspension shall last until the next General Assembly, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime. A Member, in particular, may be suspended if at least one of the following violations is at stake:

a) it has committed a serious breach of the statutes, rules, regulations, directives and/or decisions of QFA, FIFA and/or the AFC;

b) it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards QFA, FIFA and/or the AFC;

c) third-party influence in the activities and the autonomy of the member regardless whether this was the fault of the member concerned; *or*

d) non-participation in sporting competitions or any other mandatory activity of the QFA/QSLM for three (3) years.

2 The motion for suspension must be justified. It will be sent to the Members of the QFA along with the agenda. The Member concerned has the right to speak in its own defence and submit a written statement of defence. Reasonable efforts to verify the allegations shall be undertaken prior to a decision being passed.

3 A suspension shall be confirmed at the next General Assembly by three-quarter (3/4) majority of the valid votes cast. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted.

4 A suspended Member shall lose its membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.

Article 18 Expulsion

1 The General Assembly may expel a Member if:

a) it seriously breached an obligation which may lead to a suspension according to these Statutes;

b) it has committed very serious breaches of the statutes, rules, regulations, directives and/or decisions of QFA, FIFA and/or the AFC;

c) it brings a dispute to an Ordinary Court, except in cases where the QFA, FIFA or AFC statutes/regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts.

2 The motion for expulsion must be justified. It will be sent to the Members along with the agenda. The Member concerned has the right to speak in its own defence and submit a written statement of defence.

3 The presence of a majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of Members entitled to vote at the General Assembly is necessary for an expulsion to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarter (3/4) majority of the valid votes cast.

4 The expelled Member must be relieved of its functions with immediate effect and must fulfil its financial obligations towards the QFA, QSLM and the other Members of the QFA.

5 Applications for re-admission as a Member in accordance with these Statutes may only be considered after one (1) year has elapsed from the date in which the expulsion was pronounced.

6 The expelled Member has no right to claim any part of QFA's properties. It must return to the QFA any documents, record or properties under its disposal, care or control.

Article 19 Resignation

1 A Member may resign from the QFA with effect from the end of a sporting season. Written notice of resignation must reach the general secretariat of the QFA no later than six (6) months before the end of such sporting season.

2 The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards the QFA, QSLM and the other Members of the QFA.

3 The Member that resigns has no right to claim any part of the QFA's properties. It must return to the QFA any documents, record or properties under its disposal, care or control.

Article 20 Status of Clubs, QSLM and other Groups of Clubs

1 Clubs, QSLM and other Groups of Clubs affiliated to the QFA shall be subordinate to and recognized by the QFA. These Statutes define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these Clubs, QSLM and other Groups of Clubs. Their statutes and regulations must be approved by the Executive Committee of the QFA.

2 Clubs, QSLM and other Groups of Clubs shall 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, no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club, QSLM or other Groups of Clubs whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized.

III. HONORARY PRESIDENTS AND HONORARY MEMBERS

Article 21 Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members

1 The General Assembly may bestow the title of Honorary President or Honorary Member upon any persons for meritorious service to football in the State of Qatar.

2 The Executive Committee shall make these nominations.

3 The Honorary President or Honorary Member may take part in the General Assembly. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

IV. ORGANISATION

Article 22 Bodies of the QFA

1 The General Assembly is the supreme and legislative body.

2 The Executive Committee is the executive body.

3 Standing and ad-hoc committees shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling its duties. Their duties, composition and function are defined in these Statutes and/or special regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee.

4 The general secretariat is the administrative body.

5 The judicial bodies are the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee.

6 The club licensing bodies are in charge of the club licensing system within the QFA.

7 The electoral committees are in charge of organising and supervising the election process.

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

A. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 23 Definition and composition

1 The General Assembly is the meeting at which all Members of the QFA regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of the QFA. Only a General Assembly that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions. If the circumstances so require, a General Assembly may be convened and conducted online via electronic means.

2 A General Assembly may be an ordinary or extraordinary assembly.

3 The President shall conduct the General Assembly business in compliance with the standing orders of the assembly. The General Assembly is chaired by the President, or in his absence by the Vice-President in accordance with the Statutes, or, in case of the absence of both of them, by the longest serving member of the Executive Committee. The minutes are recorded by the General Secretary.

4 The General Assembly may appoint observers who take part in the General Assembly without the right to debate or to vote.

5 The honorary presidents or honorary members and members of the Executive Committee may attend the General Assembly. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

Article 24 Delegates and votes

1 The General Assembly is composed by the Members' delegates. The number of delegates is allocated as follows:

a) Clubs: each Club shall have the right to one (1) vote provided that the Club had participated in the official activities of the QFA during the previous season. They must be represented by maximum two (2) delegates, provided that only one (1) of the delegates has the right to vote.

b) QSLM: shall have the right to one (1) vote. It must be represented by maximum three (3) delegates, provided that only one (1) of the delegates has the right to vote.

c) Other leagues or Groups of Clubs: each shall have the right to one (1) vote, provided that it had participated in the official activities of the QFA during the previous season. It must be represented by a maximum of three (3) delegates, provided that only one (1) of the delegates has the right to vote.

2 Only the delegates present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy and by letter is not permitted. A delegate cannot represent more than one (1) Member.

3 Delegates must be at least twenty-one (21) years old. They must belong to the executive body of the Member they represent. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.

4 The members of the Executive Committee, the General Secretary, the Honorary President and Honorary Members shall take part in the General Assembly and participate in all discussion without voting rights. During their terms of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed by a Member as delegates at the General Assembly.

Article 25 Areas of authority

The General Assembly shall deal with the following matters:

a) adopting and/or amending the Statutes and the Electoral Code;

b) appointing Members to check the minutes and approving the minutes of the last meeting;

c) electing the President and the members of the Executive Committee;

d) electing the chairman, deputy chairman and the members of the electoral committees;

e) appointing the scrutineers;

f) appointing the independent auditors upon recommendation of the Executive Committee;

g) approving the audited financial statements;

h) approving the budget;

i) approving the QFA's annual activity report;

j) deciding, upon the nomination of the Executive Committee, whether to bestow the title of Honorary President or Honorary Member;

k) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member upon the proposal of the Executive Committee and subject to the relevant provisions as per these Statutes;

l) revoking the mandate of one (1) or a number of members of a body of the QFA;

m) dissolving the QFA;

n) passing decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with these Statutes;

o) determining the membership fees, if any.

Article 26 Quorum of the General Assembly

1 A General Assembly meeting shall only be valid if the majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of the Members who are entitled to vote are present.

2 If a quorum is not achieved, a second General Assembly shall take place at least twenty-four (24) hours after the first, with the same agenda.

3 A quorum is not required for the second meeting unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the QFA Statutes, the election of the President and members of the Executive Committee, the dismissal of one (1) or a number of members of a body of the QFA, the expulsion of a Member or the dissolution of the QFA.

Article 27 Decisions of the General Assembly

1 Unless otherwise stipulated in these Statutes, a majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of the valid votes cast is required for a motion, vote and other decision to be adopted. The number of valid votes counted shall decide the majority. Spoiled, illegible or blank voting slips, where applicable, or

any other forms of abstentions are disregarded in calculating the majority. Spelling mistakes shall result in the invalidity of a vote only if it is not possible to determine with certainty the intention of the vote.

2 A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count, unless these Statutes, the Executive Committee or the majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of Members present in the General Assembly and entitled to vote require a secret ballot. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll.

Article 28 Elections

1 Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. The election process shall be conducted in accordance with the QFA Electoral Code.

2 Unless otherwise specified in these Statutes, for a person to be elected, a majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of the valid votes cast is necessary.

3 If there are more than two candidates for one available position and no majority is reached (more than fifty percent (50%) of the valid votes cast), the candidate that obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the subsequent ballot(s) until only two candidates are left. In that case, the candidate who receives the most votes shall be elected. In case of a tied vote, new ballots shall be conducted until the respective candidate is elected in accordance with the procedure set forth by the present provision.

4 For the election of the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the electoral committees, the candidate(s) who receive(s) a majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of the valid votes cast shall be elected. Provided there is only one (1) proposal for each position of the electoral committees (cf. Article 37 lit. h) of these Statutes), the relevant elections for all positions can be conducted in one (1) vote.

5 In case the number of candidate(s) is equal to the number of vacancy(ies), the election can take place by acclamation.

Article 29 Ordinary General Assembly

1 The Ordinary General Assembly shall be held every year.

2 The Executive Committee shall fix the place and the date. The Members shall be notified by registered mail, email or hand delivery at least two (2) months in advance.

3 The formal convocation, which shall include the exact venue and starting time, shall be made by the General Secretary, or in his absence by a member of the Executive Committee, and shall be notified to the Members by registered mail, email or hand delivery at least thirty (30) days before

the date of the General Assembly. The formal convocation shall contain the following enclosures:

a) the agenda;

b) the QFA's annual activity report;

c) the audited financial statements and the external, independent auditor's report;

d) the minutes of the previous General Assembly;

e) the proposals, falling under the areas of authority of the General Assembly, submitted by at least one-fifth (1/5) of the Members to the General Secretary (if applicable);

f) the name of the candidates for elections (if applicable); and

g) any other relevant documents.

Article 30 Ordinary General Assembly agenda

1 The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda. Any proposal that one-fifth (1/5) of the Members wish to submit to the General Assembly shall be sent to the general secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least forty-five (45) days before the date of the General Assembly. In the event it does not fall under the specific areas of authority of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee may decide to not include a proposal in the agenda.

2 The General Assembly agenda shall include the following mandatory items:

a) a declaration that the General Assembly has been convened and composed in compliance with the QFA Statutes;

b) approval of the agenda;

c) an address by the President;

d) appointment of Members to check the minutes;

e) appointment of scrutineers;

f) suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable);

g) approval of the minutes of the preceding General Assembly;

h) appointment of the independent auditors upon recommendation of the Executive Committee (if applicable);

i) approval of the QFA's annual activity report (containing the activities since the last General Assembly);

j) presentation of the audited financial statements;

k) approval of the audited financial statements as well as the external, independent auditor's report;

l) admission for membership (if applicable);

m) approval of the budget;

n) votes on proposals for amendments to the Statutes (if applicable);

o) discussion of proposals, falling under the areas of authority of the General Assembly, submitted by at least one-fifth (1/5) of the Members and/or the Executive Committee (if applicable);

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

q) election of the President and members of the Executive Committee (if applicable);

r) election of the members of the electoral committees upon proposal of the Executive Committee (if applicable).

3 The General Assembly shall not take a decision on any point not included in the agenda.

4 The agenda of an Ordinary General Assembly may be altered, provided that three-quarters (3/4) of the Members present at the General Assembly and eligible to vote agree to such motion.

5 In case the agenda is not completed for any reason, the General Assembly meeting shall be continued on another date, which shall be fixed by the Executive Committee and notified though official letter by the General Secretary via registered mail, hand-delivery or e-mail. Decisions already taken by the General Assembly shall be valid and effective.

Article **31** Extraordinary General Assembly

1 The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary General Assembly at any time.

2 The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary General Assembly if more than thirty percent (30%) of the Members of the QFA make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be held within three (3) months of receipt of the request. If an Extraordinary General Assembly is not convened, the Members who requested it may convene the General Assembly themselves. As a last resort, the Members may request assistance from FIFA and AFC.

3 The Members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda by registered mail, hand-delivery or e-mail at least fifteen (15) days before the date of an Extraordinary General Assembly.

4 When an Extraordinary General Assembly is convened on the initiative of the Executive Committee, it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary General Assembly is convened upon the request of Members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Members.

5 The agenda of an Extraordinary General Assembly may not be altered.

Article 32 Amendments to the Statutes and the Electoral Code

1 The General Assembly is responsible for amending the Statutes and the Electoral Code.

2 Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes and/or the Electoral Code must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the General Secretary by a Member or by the Executive Committee. A proposal submitted by a Member is valid, provided it has been supported in writing by at least thirty percent (30%) of the Members that have the right to vote.

3 For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes to be valid, a majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of the Members eligible to vote must be present.

4 A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes shall be adopted if approved by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Members present and eligible to vote.

5 A proposal for an amendment to the Electoral Code shall be adopted if approved by a majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of the Members present and eligible to vote.

6 A set of amendments to the Statutes and/or the Electoral Code may be approved in one vote.

Article 33 Minutes

The General Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the General Assembly. The minutes shall be checked by those Members designated and finally approved at the next General Assembly. In particular, anything related to voting procedures during a General Assembly meeting shall be recorded in the minutes.

Article 34 Effective dates of decisions

Decisions passed by the General Assembly shall come into effect immediately, unless the General Assembly or these Statutes fix another date for a decision to take effect.

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article **35** Composition

1 The Executive Committee is the executive body of the QFA. The Executive Committee consists of five (5) members:

- One (1) President; and
- Four (4) members (out of which one (1) member shall be appointed as Vice-President in accordance with these Statutes).

Upon being elected to office, every member of the Executive Committee undertakes, and accepts responsibility, to faithfully, loyally and independently act in the best interests of QFA and the promotion and development of football at Qatari level.

2 The President and the members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly. Every candidate in the election of Executive Committee members must be proposed by at least one (1) Member.

3 The mandate of the President and members of the Executive Committee is for four (4) years. They may be re-elected. Their mandates shall begin after the end of the General Assembly which has elected them and expires after the end of the elective General Assembly of the fourth year of the mandate. The General Assembly can extend the term of their mandate if the circumstances so justify.

4 The members of the Executive Committee shall be Qatari citizens and not younger than twenty-one (21) years old. Preferably, they shall have already been active in football, must have not been found guilty of a criminal offence and must be of good-standing, in particular, with regards to memberships in other sports organisations/associations, if any.

5 During the term of their mandates the members of the Executive Committee shall neither hold an executive position nor be an employee at a Club.

6 Subject to Article 35 par. 5 of these Statutes, a Member of the QFA shall not have more than two (2) representatives in the Executive Committee, including the President.

7 Candidature must be sent to the QFA general secretariat at least forty-five (45) days before the General Assembly. The official list of candidates (nomination letter of the Member and a brief description of the nominee) must be passed to the Members along with the agenda for the General Assembly at which the Executive Committee will be elected.

8 If a position or up to fifty percent (50%) of the positions of the Executive Committee become(s) vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill the position(s) in question until the next General Assembly, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining term of the mandate.

9 In the event that more than fifty percent (50%) of the positions of the Executive Committee become vacant, an extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened within sixty (60) days in order to elect the replacements for the remaining term of the mandate.

Article 36 Meetings

1 The Executive Committee shall meet whenever necessary but at least four (4) times a year. If circumstances so require, a meeting may be conducted online via electronic means.

2 The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If at least fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Executive Committee request a meeting, the President shall convene an extraordinary meeting within seven (7) days.

3 The President shall decide on the date, place and time of the meeting. If the President does not convene the requested meeting within the stipulated time-limit, the other members of the Executive Committee shall convene it themselves.

4 The President shall compile the agenda. Each member of the Executive Committee is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda. The convocation and the agenda shall be sent out to the members of the Executive Committee in advance.

5 The meetings of the Executive Committee shall not be held in public. The Executive Committee may, however, invite third parties such as guests or experts to attend the meeting. Those third parties may only express an opinion with the permission of the Executive Committee and shall not have voting rights.

Article 37 Powers of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee:

a) shall pass decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the General Assembly or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes;

b) shall define in accordance with these Statutes the QFA's mission, strategic direction, policies and values, in particular with regards to the organisation and development of football at Qatari level;

c) shall adopt and issue the rules and regulations of the QFA, unless otherwise specified in these Statutes;

d) shall prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly of the QFA;

e) shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President;

f) shall appoint the chairman, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees;

g) shall appoint the chairman, deputy chairman and members of the judicial bodies;

h) shall propose the chairman, deputy chairman and members of the electoral committees;

i) may set up ad-hoc committees, if necessary, at any time;

j) shall compile the regulations for the organisation of standing committees and ad-hoc committees*;*

k) shall recognize the QSLM as well as review the Statutes and regulations of the Clubs, QSLM and other Groups of Clubs affiliated to the QFA;

l) shall recommend independent auditors to the General Assembly;

m) shall provide the General Assembly with a proposal regarding the admission, suspension or exclusion of membership;

n) shall decide the place and dates of and the number of teams participating in the competitions of the QFA;

o) shall appoint the coaches for the representative teams and other technical staff;

p) shall approve regulations stipulating how the QFA shall be organised internally;

q) shall ensure that these Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;

r) may dismiss a person or body or suspend a Member of the QFA provisionally until the next General Assembly;

s) may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of the QFA or third parties;

t) shall appoint replacements for vacancies in the bodies of QFA, in accordance with these Statutes.

Article **38** **Decisions**

1 The Executive Committee shall not engage in valid debate unless at least four (4) of its members are present. If the quorum is not met, the meeting shall be postponed to a new date which shall be fixed within twenty-four (24) hours of the original date with the same agenda. To engage in valid debate the second meeting shall be attended by no less than three (3) of the members.

2 The Executive Committee shall reach decisions by a majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of the members present. Each member has one vote. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote.

3 In case of urgency or when a business does not require detailed discussion, the Executive Committee may pass decisions in writing by circulation to all members of the Executive Committee. In such case, decisions by circulation must be approved by the majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of all members of the Executive Committee.

4 Any member of the Executive Committee must withdraw from debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interest.

5 Any member of the Executive Committee may request a secret vote.

6 The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes and be available for the members of the Executive Committee within a reasonable time after the meeting.

7 The decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall come into effect immediately, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

Article **39** Dismissal of a person or body

1 The General Assembly may dismiss a person or body. The Executive Committee may place the dismissal of a person or body on the agenda for the General Assembly. The Executive Committee may also dismiss a person or body provisionally. Any Executive Committee member may submit a proposal to place such a motion for dismissal on the agenda of the Executive Committee or General Assembly.

2 The motion for dismissal must be justified. It will be sent to the members of the Executive Committee and/or the Members of the QFA along with the agenda.

3 The person or body in question has the right to speak in his or its own defence.

4 If the motion for dismissal is upheld, the General Assembly or Executive Committee 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 is required.

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

Article **40** Cessation, dismissal and resignation of a member of the Executive Committee

1 The membership of the Executive Committee ceases in the following cases:

a) a member's death or disability, which prevents such member to carry out his duties;

b) three (3) consecutive absences or five (5) non-consecutive absences at the Executive Committee's meetings without an excuse that has been accepted by the Executive Committee;

c) loss of the legal eligibility to be a member of the Executive Committee;

d) decisions of disciplinary and/or ethical nature pronounced against a member, which no longer tolerate such member to serve on the Executive Committee;

e) commission of an act, which disgraces the dignity or defames the reputation of the QFA or other associations/organisations.

2 In case an event mentioned in letters b) to e) occurs, the dismissal shall be governed by Article 39 of the Statutes.

3 A member of the Executive Committee who has been dismissed may not be selected for any committee at the QFA, unless the reason of his dismissal has been eliminated.

4 A member of the Executive Committee may resign with notice of resignation to the General Secretary.

C. PRESIDENT

Article **41** **President**

1 The President represents the QFA legally. He is the official leader of the QFA.

2 He is primarily responsible for:

a) implementing the decisions passed by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee with the assistance of the General Secretary and the general secretariat;

b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of the QFA in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;

c) overseeing the overall management of the QFA by the general secretariat;

d) relations between the QFA and its Members, FIFA, AFC, QOC, other associations, political bodies and other organizations;

e) convening the meetings of the Executive Committee and compiling the agenda for such meetings.

3 Only the President may propose the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary.

4 The President shall preside over the General Assembly, the Executive Committee meetings and those committees of which he has been appointed chairman.

5 The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote.

6 If the President is absent or unavailable, the Vice-President shall deputize in accordance with these Statutes.

7 Any additional powers of the President shall be regulated by the Executive Committee in the QFA's internal organisation regulations.

Article 42 Candidates for the office of President

1 The President shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of four (4) years. His mandate shall begin after the end of the General Assembly which has elected him. A President may be re-elected.

2 For the election of the President, two-thirds (2/3) of the valid votes cast are necessary in the first ballot. In the second and any other requisite ballot, a majority (more than fifty percent (50%)) of the valid votes cast is necessary. If there are more than two (2) candidates, the candidate that obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two (2) candidates are left.

3 Only Members of the QFA may propose candidates for the office of President. Members shall notify the general secretariat in writing of the name of a candidate for the presidency of the QFA at least forty-five (45) days before the date of the General Assembly.

4 The general secretariat shall notify the Members of the names of the proposed candidates at least thirty (30) days before the date of the General Assembly.

5 If the President is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his official function, the Vice-President, in accordance with these Statutes, shall represent him until the next General Assembly. This General Assembly shall elect a new President, if necessary.

Article 43 Representation and Signature

1 The President represents the QFA legally.

2 The President, the Vice President, the General Secretary and other persons authorized by the Executive Committee are entitled to sign legally binding documents for the QFA, provided they are duly registered as authorized signatories in accordance with Qatari law and the applicable regulations. The Executive Committee may set up internal organisation directives regarding the persons who may sign legally binding documents for the QFA.

D. VICE-PRESIDENT

Article **44** Vice-President

1 The Vice-President shall assist the President in all issues assigned to him related to the QFA and shall replace the President, in accordance with these Statutes, in case of his absence or unavailability.

2 The Vice-President, who shall be an existing member of the Executive Committee, shall be appointed by the Executive Committee among its members.

E. GENERAL SECRETARY AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Article **45** General Secretary

1 The General Secretary is the chief executive of the QFA.

2 The General Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee on the proposal of the President, on the basis of an agreement governed by private law and shall have the necessary professional qualifications.

3 The General Secretary shall:

a) manage and oversee the operations and day-to-day business in the QFA in accordance with the parameters established by the President and the Executive Committee;

b) implement decisions passed by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;

c) prepare the agenda of the General Assembly and submit it to the President for supervision;

d) attend the General Assembly, the meetings of the Executive Committee and shall be entitled to attend the meetings of the standing committees without the right to vote. The General Secretary may attend the meetings of ad-hoc committees, where, provided the General Secretary is a member, he may have the right to vote;

e) organise the General Assembly, the meetings of the Executive Committee and other bodies;

f) prepare and compile the minutes of meetings of the General Assembly and of the Executive Committee;

g) compile the minutes of meetings of the standing committees and ad-hoc committees. Concerning all meetings, including those which were not attended by the General Secretary, the latter shall be provided with the relevant meeting minutes within a reasonable time after the relevant meeting was held;

h) appoint, dismiss and promote, unless otherwise provide for in these Statutes, the staff of the QFA in coordination with and under the direction of the President and the Executive Committee. Moreover, the General Secretary shall have the right to impose administrative sanctions, where necessary, in accordance with the rules set up by the Executive Committee;

i) manage and keep the accounts of QFA properly;

j) oversee all the operations and program activities of QFA and ensure that the overall mission of QFA, within the guidelines set up by the President and the Executive Committee, is being implemented;

k) implement and recommend improvements to the short, medium and long-term strategies under the direction of the Executive Committee and ensure the interests of QFA are met;

l) identify development areas and ways of enhancing the operational and strategic efficiencies and provide leadership to effectively manage operations and programs of QFA;

m) be responsible to oversee the correspondence of the QFA;

n) enhance and strengthen the relations with the Members, QFA committees, FIFA, AFC, QOC and other associations/organisations;

o) organise and oversee the general secretariat;

p) perform all other administrative matters for the efficient operation and organisation of the QFA, as required and authorised by the President or the Executive Committee, as well as, any other tasks assigned by the Executive Committee.

4 The General Secretary may not be a General Assembly delegate.

5 The General Secretary reports directly and regularly to the Executive Committee and the President.

Article 46 General secretariat

1 The general secretariat shall carry out the administrative work of the QFA under the direction of the General Secretary. The members of the general secretariat are bound by the internal organisational regulations of the QFA and shall fulfil the given tasks in the best manner.

2 In particular, the general secretariat is responsible for:

a) carrying out the operations and day-to-day business of QFA under the directions of the General Secretary;

b) receipt, storage, organisation and/or review of all incoming correspondences, communications and affairs;

c) preparation, arrangement and follow-up of necessary works for the meetings of the Executive Committee and General Assembly under the directions of the General Secretary;

d) preparation and follow-up on all QFA standing and ad-hoc committees as well as external committees under the directions of the General Secretary;

e) arrangement and coordination of specific meetings;

f) organising a comprehensive QFA archive for incoming and outgoing correspondence through modern methods under the directions of the General Secretary;

g) other administrative matters under the direction of the General Secretary.

F. STANDING COMMITTEES

Article **47** Standing Committees

1 The standing committees of the QFA are:

a) Audit & Compliance Committee;

b) Organising Committee for Competitions;

c) National Teams Committee;

d) Referees' Committee;

e) Tender and Procurement Committee;

f) Players' Status Committee;

g) Finance Committee;

h) Financial Control Committee.

2 The chairmen of the standing committees shall be a member of the Executive Committee with the exception of the chairman for the Audit & Compliance Committee, who may not belong to the Executive Committee. The members of each standing committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee except those of the Referees Committee. The chairmen, deputy chairmen and the members of the standing committees shall be designated for a term of office of four (4) years.

3 Each chairman shall represent his committee and conduct business in compliance with the relevant organisation regulations (nature of the tasks, obligations, responsibilities, structure, frequency of meetings and working procedures) drawn up by the Executive Committee.

4 Each chairman shall fix the dates of meetings in collaboration with the General Secretary, ensure that all tasks are carried out and report back to the Executive Committee.

5 Each committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Committee.

6 The President or the Vice-President shall have the right to attend the meetings of the standing committees.

7 If a member of a committee is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings without justified reason, he shall be automatically removed from his position as committee member and immediately notified in writing by the General Secretary. The Executive Committee shall appoint a replacing member.

8 In case of resignation of a member of a standing committee, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacing member.

9 Application for becoming a member of a standing committee shall include brief information about the background of the nominee and shall confirm the nominee's knowledge and experience in the field concerned. Application shall be received by the General Secretary at least two (2) weeks before the date of the relevant meeting of the Executive Committee. Further application procedures may be set up in the regulations of the specific standing committee.

10 The standing committees shall meet at least four (4) times a year.

11 Each member of a standing committee has one (1) vote. In case of a tie vote, the chairman has the casting vote.

12 The minutes of the meetings shall be provided to the members of the standing committee, the Executive Committee and the General Secretary within a reasonable time after the date of the meeting. The requests and/or recommendations which require approval of the Executive Committee shall be sent to the Executive Committee in writing.

13 Each standing committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. The composition, specific duties and powers of the individual standing committees shall be stipulated by way of regulations or decisions of the Executive Committee.

Article **48** Audit & Compliance Committee

1 The Audit & Compliance Committee shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting and shall review the external, independent auditor's report at the request of the Executive Committee. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary, all of whom must not belong to any other body of the QFA. The committee members shall be knowledgeable and experienced in financial and/or regulatory and legal matters and may not be involved in any decision affecting the operations of the QFA.

2 The Audit & Compliance Committee shall assist and advise the Executive Committee in monitoring QFA's financial and compliance matters, including the supervision of the General Secretary. Insofar the Audit & Compliance Committee shall have oversight responsibilities for:

a) the completeness and reliability of the QFA's financial accounting and the review of the financial statements and the external, independent auditor's report;

b) the QFA's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;

c) the external, independent auditor's qualifications and independence; *and*

d) the performance of the QFA's internal audit function and independent auditors.

3 The Audit & Compliance Committee shall be responsible for:

a) reviewing the adequacy of the QFA's internal control structure;

b) recommending to the Executive Committee the appointment (or reappointment) of the external, independent auditor;

c) conducting post-audit reviews of the financial statements and audit findings, including any significant suggestions for improvements provided to QFA by the independent auditor;

d) reviewing fee arrangements of the external, independent auditor; and

e) performing other audit oversight functions as requested by the Executive Committee.

Article **49** Organising Committee for Competitions

The Organising Committee for Competitions shall organise the competitions of the QFA, including futsal and beach soccer competitions, in compliance with the provisions of these Statutes and the regulations applicable to the competitions. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary.

Article **50** National Teams Committee

1 In coordination with the Executive Committee, the National Teams Committee shall oversee and develop strategies with regards to the technical planning, performance and evaluation of the representative teams of the QFA. Insofar the National Teams Committee shall monitor and oversee the work of the QFA national teams department.

2 The National Teams Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary.

3 The National Teams Committee shall be, in particular, responsible for:

a) setting the long-term strategy that ensures the realisation of QFA's objectives in achieving advanced international rankings for all its representative teams;

b) overseeing the national teams department's standard for the overall organization of the representative teams;

c) reviewing plans, programs and projects at all levels (technical, performance and organizational) developed by the national teams department in order to enable the effective implementation of a national football strategy and oversee such implementation;

d) reviewing the annual competitions calendar for all QFA representative teams in full synchronization with FIFA and AFC annual calendars and in coordination with the concerned committees/departments at QFA and QSLM;

e) overseeing the national teams' preparation plans (training camps and matches) prepared by the national teams department in alignment with the agreed annual competitions calendar;

f) monitoring the selection and scouting activities with regards to the recruitment of technical staff for all representative teams of the QFA;

g) advising the President and the Executive Committee with regards to the appointment and termination of the director and other key-staff in the national teams department;

h) overseeing the annual budget of the national teams department and its workforce plan;

i) reviewing the annual marketing and communication plan concerning the QFA representative teams;

j) any other further responsibilities as assigned by the Executive Committee.

Article **51** Referees' Committee

1 The Referees' Committee shall set up, in coordination with the President and the Executive Committee, the strategy and mission with regards to the development, plans, programmes and activities of refereeing in Qatar and insofar shall monitor and oversee the work of the QFA referees' department.

2 The Referees' Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. The members of the Referees' Committee may not be affiliated to any football clubs, leagues or any other football association. The Executive Committee shall appoint one of its members as chairman of the Referees' Committee. The deputy

chairman and members of the Referees Committee shall be appointed by the President at the proposal of the chairman of the Referees' Committee. The Referees' Committee may invite executive staff of the referees' department to attend meetings in an advisory role and without the right to vote.

3 Based on the above, the responsibilities of the Referees' Committee are defined by the Executive Committee and, in particular, are as follows:

a) to ensure implementation of the Laws of the Game;

b) to appoint the referees for matches in competitions organized by the QFA, the QSLM or for any other tournaments, whenever requested to do so;

c) to oversee and manage the organization of refereeing matters within the State of Qatar;

d) to monitor the preparation, formation, education and training of referees in Qatar as organized by the QFA referees' department;

e) to coordinate with the President, the Executive Committee and the QFA's referees' department on the overall infrastructure and conditions in order to ensure that the objectives, plans and programs with regards to refereeing in Qatar are met;

f) to classify the referees in each category on the basis of their performance in selected matches and propose promotions and demotions;

g) to nominate and ensure the qualification of elite Qatari referees to be included in the international list of referees issued by FIFA and/or the AFC on an annual basis for officiating international matches, including the final stages of the FIFA World Cup and AFC Asian Cup tournaments, according to the FIFA/AFC requirements governing the registration of international referees, assistant referees, futsal referees and beach soccer referees on FIFA's lists;

h) to comply with the standard refereeing methods as established by FIFA to ensure uniform implementation of the Laws of the Game;

i) to utilize uniform criteria for the assessment of referees as established by FIFA;

j) to ensure the training and education of a sufficient number of referees for all footballing activities in Qatar at all levels;

k) to approve the referee instructor and assessor panels; and

l) to approve administrative regulations governing refereeing.

Article **52** Tender and Procurement Committee

1 The QFA Tender and Procurement Committee, as part of an efficient and effective management of resources, shall, in particular, implement, apply and review the QFA's procurement rules, policies and practices and shall ensure that the QFA's activities are in line with applicable procurement laws, the QFA Tender and Procurement Regulations as well as recognized good practices in the State of Qatar.

2 The Tender and Procurement Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary, all of which shall have the necessary qualifications to exercise their duties.

Article 53 Players' Status Committee

The Players' Status Committee shall set up and monitor compliance with transfer regulations in accordance with the FIFA and QFA regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and determine the status of Players for various competitions of the QFA and QSLM. The Executive Committee may draw up special regulations or decisions governing the Players' Status Committee's powers of jurisdiction. The Players' Status Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary.

Article 54 Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall monitor the financial management and advise the Executive Committee on financial matters and asset management. It shall analyse the budget of the QFA, and the financial statements prepared by the General Secretary and submit them to the Executive Committee for approval.

Article 55 Financial Control Committee

1 The Financial Control Committee shall, primarily, safeguard the financial performance, stability and management of Clubs. An effective control mechanism shall ensure the Clubs' and their Officials' compliance with obligations and duties set out in the QFA Financial Control Regulations issued from time to time by the Executive Committee.

2 The responsibilities and functions of the Financial Control Committee shall be stipulated in the QFA Financial Control Regulations. Administrative and investigatory functions may be delegated to the QSLM.

3 The Financial Control Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. At least one member of the Financial Control Committee shall have legal qualifications. The chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Financial Control Committee shall not belong to any judicial body of the QFA.

4 Administrative measures taken by the Financial Control Committee are final and binding and not subject to appeal.

5 Violations of the QFA Financial Control Regulations may be sanctioned. Insofar, the Financial Control Committee shall have decision making powers (as first instance decision maker) and may pronounce sanctions described in these Statutes and the QFA Financial Control Regulations. Sanctions set out in the QFA Financial Control Regulations have the meaning as described in the Disciplinary Code of the QFA.

6 The Financial Control Committee shall pass decisions as first instance decision maker only when at least three (3) members are present. In certain cases provided in the QFA Financial Control Regulations, the chairman may rule alone.

7 The decision-making powers of the QFA Judicial Bodies and other committees remain unaffected. This article is subject to the disciplinary powers of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members, persons or body of the QFA and members of the Executive Committee.

8 Decisions pronounced by the Financial Control Committee may not be appealed to the QFA Judicial Bodies, but directly to the QSAT in accordance with these Statutes and the QSAT Code.

Article 56 Ad-hoc Committees

The Executive Committee may, if necessary, create ad-hoc committees for special duties and a limited period of time. The Executive Committee shall appoint a chairman, a deputy chairman and the members. The duties and function are defined in special regulations or decisions drawn up by the Executive Committee. An ad-hoc committee shall report directly to the Executive Committee.

G. JUDICIAL BODIES

Article 57 Judicial bodies

1 The judicial bodies of the QFA are:

a) the Disciplinary Committee;

b) the Ethics Committee;

c) the Appeal Committee.

2 The responsibilities and functions of these bodies shall be stipulated in the Disciplinary Code of the QFA, which shall comply with the FIFA Disciplinary Code and in the Code of Ethics of the QFA, which shall both be issued by the Executive Committee.

3 The decision-making powers of other committees remain unaffected.

4 The members of the judicial bodies may not belong to any other body of the QFA or a Member of the QFA at the same time.

5 The term of office of all members of the judicial bodies shall be four (4) years. The members may be re-appointed.

Article 58 Disciplinary Committee

1 The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. At least one (1) member of the Disciplinary Committee shall have legal qualifications.

2 The Disciplinary Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three (3) members are present. In certain cases, the chairman may rule alone if provided in the Disciplinary Code of the QFA.

3 The Disciplinary Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the Disciplinary Code of the QFA or other applicable regulations on Members, Officials, Players, Clubs and Football Agents and all those subjects to its jurisdiction.

4 These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members, persons or body of the QFA and members of the Executive Committee.

Article 59 Ethics Committee

1 The Ethics Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. At least one (1) member of the Ethics Committee shall have legal qualifications.

2 The Ethics Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three (3) members are present. In certain cases, the chairman may rule alone if provided in the QFA Disciplinary Code or the QFA Code of Ethics.

3 The Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes, the QFA Code of Ethics, the QFA Disciplinary Code or other applicable regulations on Members, Officials, Players and Football Agents and all those subjects to its jurisdiction.

Article 60 Appeal Committee

1 The Appeal Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. The chairman and deputy chairman shall have legal qualifications.

2 The Appeal Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three (3) members are present. In certain cases, the chairman may rule alone if provided in the Disciplinary Code of the QFA.

3 The Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee and the Ethics Committee that are not declared final by the relevant regulations of the QFA.

4 Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee may be appealed to the QSAT in accordance with these Statutes and the QSAT Code.

Article **61** Disciplinary Measures

The disciplinary measures are primarily:

1 for natural and legal persons:

a) a warning;

b) a reprimand;

c) a fine;

d) the return of awards.

2 for natural persons:

a) a caution;

b) an expulsion;

c) a match suspension;

d) a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;

e) a ban from entering a stadium;

f) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity;

g) suspension of a license;

h) registration cancellation;

i) other sanctions provided in QFA or QSLM regulations.

3 for legal persons:

a) a transfer ban;

b) playing a match without spectators;

c) playing a match on neutral territory;

d) a ban on playing in a particular stadium;

e) annulment of the result of the match;

f) expulsion;

g) a forfeit;

h) deduction of points;

i) relegation to a lower division:

j) replay of a match;

k) withholding of financial entitlements from the QFA or QSLM;

l) other sanctions provided in QFA or QSLM regulations.

Article 62 Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal

1 The QFA recognizes the jurisdiction of the QSAT:

a) to resolve all disputes between QFA, its Members, Players, Officials, Football Agents affiliated to/registered with/licensed by the QFA and/or FIFA at the time that the dispute arose (internal national disputes), except those cases specifically excluded in the Statutes or relevant regulations of the QFA. The QSAT shall not have jurisdiction related to financial disputes between Players/coaches and Members arising out of or in connection with any contract, settlement, agreement, clearance, or debt document which has not been approved by the QFA/the QSLM in accordance with QFA and/or QSLM regulations, circulars, etc.; and

b) to hear appeals against decisions from the QFA judicial bodies and first instance decisions of the Financial Control Committee within twenty-one (21) days from the receipt of the motivated decision appealed against and after all other internal channels have been exhausted. The QSAT cannot deal with appeals arising from:

i. violations of the Laws of the Game;

ii. warning or reprimand;

iii. suspensions of up to four (4) matches or up to three (3) months;

iv. a fine of up to QAR 200,000.00/- imposed on a Club or of up to QAR 100,000.00/- in other cases;

v. decisions from any other bodies of the QFA.

An appeal to the QSAT has no staying effect, except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money. Upon reasoned request of the appellant together with his/its appeal, the QSAT may order the appeal to have a suspensive effect.

2 The provisions of the QSAT Code shall apply to the proceedings.

3 The QFA shall ensure full compliance of its Members, Players, Officials and Football Agents with the awards passed by the QSAT.

4 All awards passed by the QSAT shall be final and binding and not subject to appeals to the CAS.

Article 63 Jurisdiction

1 The QFA, its Members, Players, Officials and Football Agents will not take any dispute between them to Ordinary Courts unless these Statutes, the FIFA regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to ordinary courts of law. Instead of recourse to ordinary courts, any disagreement shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of the QFA and/or the QSAT.

2 The QFA and/or the QSAT shall have jurisdiction on disputes between parties belonging to the QFA at the time that the dispute arose (internal national disputes). FIFA shall have jurisdiction on disputes between parties belonging to different National Associations and/or Confederations at the time the dispute arose (international disputes).

3 Recourse may only be made to an Arbitration Tribunal once all internal channels of QFA have been exhausted.

Article 64 Court of Arbitration for Sport

1 In accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Statutes, any appeal against a final and binding FIFA decision shall be heard by the CAS. CAS shall not, however, hear appeals on violations of the Laws of the Game, suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months, or decisions passed by an independent and duly constituted Arbitration Tribunal of an Association or Confederation (with the exception of doping decisions).

2 The QFA shall ensure its full compliance and that of its Members, Players, Officials and Football Agents and all those subjects to its jurisdiction with any final decision passed by a FIFA body or CAS.

H. OTHER BODIES

Article 65 Club Licensing Bodies

The licensing bodies are the Club Licensing Committee (first instance body) and the Club Licensing Appeal Committee (appeal instance body) in charge of the

club licensing system within the QFA in accordance with the regulations of QFA or, in case of delegation, the regulations of the QSLM approved by the QFA.

Article 66 Electoral committees

The Electoral Committee is responsible for all tasks relating to the organisation, running and supervision of the elective General Assembly and the Appeal Election Committee is the appeal instance body in accordance with the Electoral Code of the QFA.

V. FINANCE

Article 67 Financial period

1 The financial period of the QFA shall be one year and shall begin on 1st January and end on 31st December of the same year.

2 The revenue and expenses of the QFA shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period.

3 The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of the QFA with its subsidiaries until 31st December of each year.

4 The accounts shall be stipulated in Qatari Riyal.

Article 68 Revenue, Funds and Capital

1 The revenue of the QFA arises specifically from:

a) Members' annual subscriptions;

b) subsidies received from the QOC;

c) subsidies received from the other international sports bodies, such as FIFA, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), AFC and all other sources;

d) income generated by internal and international matches organized by the QFA;

e) income generated by the marketing or other exploitation of rights belonging to the QFA or of rights, which may be used by the QFA;

f) other income generated by the QFA;

g) imposed fines/charged fees related to the undertaking of QFA's activities;

h) donations, gratuities and legacies, provided they are approved by the Executive Committee;

i) subsidies received from the state;

j) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by the QFA and approved by the Executive Committee.

2 The QFA funds shall be deposited in a national bank recognized in the State of Qatar and/or a well-reputed international bank abroad.

3 The QFA has a capital in the amount of QAR 1,000,000.00/- (One Million Qatari Riyals).

Article 69 Expenses

The QFA bears:

a) the expenses stipulated in the budget;

b) other expenses approved by the General Assembly and expenses that the Executive Committee is entitled to incur within the scope of its authority;

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

Article 70 Independent Auditors

1 Independent auditors shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the Executive Committee. The independent auditors shall audit the accounts approved by the Finance Committee in accordance with the general principles of accounting and present a report to the General Assembly. The independent auditors shall be appointed for a period of four (4) years. This mandate may be renewed.

2 The audited accounts shall be prepared annually by no later than 31 March after the end of the financial period.

3 The audited accounts shall be sent by the General Secretary to the Executive Committee by no later than 15 April of each year.

4 After approval by the Executive Committee, the audited accounts shall be distributed to all Members together with the agenda of the General Assembly.

Article 71 Membership Subscriptions

1 Membership subscriptions are due at the beginning of every football season. The annual subscription for new Members for the year in question shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the close of the General Assembly at which they are admitted.

2 The General Assembly shall fix a reasonable amount of the annual subscription every year on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. It shall be the same for every Member.

Article 72 Settlements

The QFA may debit any Member's assets to settle claims.

Article 73 Levies

The QFA may demand that a levy be paid by its Members for matches.

VI. COMPETITIONS AND RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

Article 74 Competitions

1 The QFA organizes and coordinates the following competitions:

a) the second division league;

b) the Amir Cup;

c) the Sheikh Jassim Cup;

d) age category and grassroot competitions; and

e) any other official competitions decided by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall issue special regulations to this end.

2 The QSLM organizes and coordinates the following competitions:

a) the first division league ("*Qatar Stars League*" or any other name under which such competition is denominated);

b) the Qatar Cup; and

c) any other competitions decided by QSLM provided they do not interfere with those competitions organized by the QFA and they are approved by the Executive Committee of the QFA.

The Executive Committee is entitled to issue special regulations or it may delegate to the QSLM the authority to issue special regulations to this end to be approved and ratified by the Executive Committee of the QFA.

3 The Executive Committee may delegate to QFA's subordinate leagues the authority to organise competitions. The competitions organized by such leagues shall not interfere with those competitions organized by the QFA. Competitions organised by the QFA shall take priority.

Article **75** Club Licensing System

1 The QFA shall be responsible for the operation of a club licensing system in accordance with the relevant club licensing regulations of AFC and FIFA. The Executive Committee may delegate the operation of the club licensing system to QSLM.

2 The objective of the club licensing system is to safeguard the credibility and integrity of club competitions, to improve the level of professionalism of clubs and to promote sporting values in accordance with the principles of fair play as well as safe and secure match environments and to promote transparency in the finance, ownership and control of Clubs.

3 The Executive Committee or, in case of delegation, the QSLM executive committee shall be responsible for issuing club licensing regulations and appointing the relevant club licensing bodies governing the participation of Clubs in the following competitions:

a) Qatar Stars League;

b) the second division league; *and*

c) AFC club competitions and any other international club competitions, where necessary.

Article **76** Rights

1 The QFA and its Members are the original owners of all rights emanating from competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audio-visual and radio recordings, reproduction and broadcasting rights, including those on new technologies, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.

2 The Executive Committee shall decide how and to what extent these rights are utilised and draw up special regulations to this end. The Executive

Committee shall alone decide whether these rights shall be utilised exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.

Article 77 Image, sound and other data carriers

The QFA and its Members are exclusively responsible for authorizing the distribution of image, 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.

VII. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

Article 78 International matches and competitions

1 The authority for organizing international matches and competitions between representative teams and between leagues, club teams and/or scratch teams lies solely with FIFA. No match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of FIFA. In addition, permission from the relevant Confederation and/or the relevant FIFA member association may be required in accordance with the FIFA regulations governing international matches.

2 The QFA and QSLM are bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

Article 79 Contacts

QFA, its Members, Players, Officials, match agents and Football Agents shall not play matches or make sporting contacts with Associations that are not members of FIFA or with provisional members of a Confederation without the approval of FIFA.

Article 80 Authorizations

Clubs that are affiliated to the QFA may only join another FIFA member association or participate in competitions on that FIFA member association's territory under exceptional circumstances. In each case, authorization must be given by the QFA, the other FIFA member association, the respective Confederation(s) and by FIFA. Clubs, Leagues or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to QFA cannot participate in competitions on the territory of another Association without the authorisation of QFA, the other Association(s), FIFA and the respective Confederation(s) according to the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 81 Unforeseen contingencies and force majeure

Any matters not provided for in these Statutes and cases of force majeure shall be decided by the Executive Committee whose decisions are final.

Article 82 Dissolution

1 Any decision relating to the dissolution of the QFA requires a majority of four-fifth (4/5) of all Members of the QFA, which must be obtained at a General Assembly specially convened for the purpose.

2 If the QFA is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to the relevant authorities/entities. It shall hold these assets as a trustee in accordance with the relevant professional duties until the QFA is re-established. The final General Assembly may, however, choose another recipient for the assets on the basis of a four-fifth (4/5) majority.

Article 83 Enforcement

These Statutes were adopted at the General Assembly in Doha on 2 June 2025 and have come into force with immediate effect upon adoption.

Doha, 02 June 2025

President **General Secretary**