

West Asian football federation

القانون الانتخابي

WAFF Electoral Code

2026

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Table of Contents

Article	Title	Page
Definitions Preliminary Chapter		
1.	Scope of Application	X
2.	General Principles	X
Chapter One: Electoral Committee		
3.	Composition	X
4.	Duties	X
5.	Convocation and Quorum	X
6.	Decisions	X
Chapter Two: Candidatures		
7.	Eligibility	X
8.	Submission	X
9.	Examination	X
Chapter Three: WAFF Congress		
10.	Deadline for Convocation	X
11.	Ballot Papers	X
12.	Urn	X
13.	Polling Booths	X
14.	Vote	X
15.	Count	X
16.	Invalid Ballot Papers	X
17.	Declaration of Results	X
18.	Official Minutes	X
19.	Verification of Voters	X
Chapter Four: Final Provisions		
20.	Archiving of Documents	X
21.	Complaints	X
22.	Appeal	
23.	Matters Not Provided For	X
24.	Enforcement	X

Definitions

For the purposes of interpreting the WAFF Electoral Code (hereinafter referred to as the "Code"), all terms defined within the Definitions section of the most recent version of the WAFF Statutes, as well as any terms whose meanings are ascertainable from the context of the WAFF Statutes, shall carry the same definitions as those set forth in this Code.

For the purposes of this Code and to the extent permitted by the context:
a) The singular shall be interpreted to include the plural and the plural shall include the singular;
b) The feminine shall encompass the masculine and vice versa;
c) References to natural persons shall be deemed to include legal persons or corporations; and
d) Unless expressly stated otherwise herein, all defined terms shall carry the meanings prescribed in the WAFF Statutes, except where the context dictates otherwise.

Preliminary Chapter

1. Scope of Application

1-1 This Code is applicable to the elections to the WAFF Executive Committee, pursuant to the WAFF Statutes.

1-2 In addition, the AFC Statutes and any other AFC regulations and directives are applicable to the elections to the representative of WAFF for the AFC Executive Committee.

2. General Principles

2-1 The democratic principles of separation of powers, transparency and publication of WAFF electoral processes must be observed without exception.

2-2 In accordance with Article 3.2 of the WAFF Statutes, the WAFF is neutral in matters of politics and shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third parties. Accordingly, interference of any kind by any government of any Member Association in the WAFF electoral process is not permitted. For the avoidance of doubt, local and national government rules in any territory regarding elections shall not apply to the WAFF electoral process.

2-3 The Electoral Committee shall adopt and approve electoral rules for elections to the WAFF Executive Committee in accordance with this Code, WAFF Statutes and pertinent AFC regulations and directives.

2-4 The WAFF shall inform AFC of:

- 2-4-1 The commencement of the elections to its elected bodies
- 2-4-2 The announcement of the elections and its electoral rules
- 2-4-3 The duration of elections and of the mandates
- 2-4-4 The names of any proposed candidates for the position of AFC Executive Committee Member representing the AFC, in accordance with the AFC Statutes; and
- 2-4-5 Any undue influence from third parties in the electoral process

2-5 The elected members of the WAFF Executive Committee shall continue to exercise their functions until the completion of the electoral process.

Chapter One: Electoral Committee

3. Composition

3-1 The Electoral Committee shall comprise of three members: Chairperson of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, Chairperson of the Appeal Committee and Chairperson of the Audit and Compliance Committee at the time of the call for elections.

3-1-1 In the event that a member is ineligible or unwilling to carry out their duties, they shall be replaced by the Deputy of the Committee which they chair.

3-1-2 In the event that the replacement is ineligible or unwilling to carry out their duties, they shall be replaced by the most senior member (by time served) of the Committee for which they are Deputy.

3-1-3 In the event that the replacement is ineligible or unwilling to carry out their duties, they shall be replaced by the next most senior member (by time served) of the Committee from which they were appointed. This process shall be continued until no eligible members exist on a specific Committee.

3-1-4 In situations where a committee lacks eligible members, the Executive Committee will appoint a suitable candidate from among other Committees.

3-2 The Electoral Committee shall comprise of:

3-3-1 Chairperson

3-3-2 Two (2) Deputy Chairpersons

3-3 The Chairperson shall be selected by the members of the Electoral Committee.

3-4 The General Secretary serves as the Secretary to the Electoral Committee. He takes part in the activities of the Electoral Committee in a consultative capacity and is responsible for related logistical and administrative matters. 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.

3-5 In the event that any member of the Electoral Committee:

3-5-1 submits a candidature for an election to the WAFF; or

3-5-2 is a relative, whether by birth or marriage; of one of the candidates or;

3-5-3 has an identifiable conflict of interest (e.g. business relationship with a candidate); for clarification purposes, the mere fact that an electoral committee member holds the same nationality as one of the candidates does not, in itself, constitute a conflict of interest.

they are ineligible to sit on the Electoral Committee for matters where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality and shall be replaced in accordance with Articles 3.1.1 to 3.1.4 of this Code.

If there is any doubt as to the eligibility of a member of the Electoral Committee under this provision, the Chairperson (or, in the event that the Chairperson's eligibility is in

question, a Deputy Chairperson) shall take a decision on the eligibility of the relevant member. Such decisions shall be final and binding and not appealable.

3-6 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

4. Duties

4-1 The Electoral Committee is responsible for organizing and supervising WAFF elections and making related decisions unless otherwise specified in this Code, the WAFF Statutes, AFC Statutes or the AFC Electoral Code. In this context, the Electoral Committee is entrusted with overseeing all matters pertaining to the organization, implementation and supervision of an elective WAFF Congress, including but not limited to the following responsibilities:

- 4-1-1 Strictly enforcing the relevant Statutes, Directives and Regulations of AFC and the WAFF
- 4-1-2 Strictly enforcing this Code
- 4-1-3 Strictly enforcing the statutory deadlines for elections
- 4-1-4 Conducting the eligibility check on the candidates and deciding on their eligibility
- 4-1-5 Distributing information to WAFF Member Associations, the media and public
- 4-1-6 Managing relations with government bodies (where necessary)
- 4-1-7 Adopting and strictly enforcing electoral rules of the WAFF
- 4-1-8 Overseeing the candidature procedure
- 4-1-9 Organizing the elective WAFF Congress
- 4-1-10 Drawing up the list of voters in accordance with Article 20.2 of the WAFF Statutes
- 4-1-11 Managing the voting procedure
- 4-1-12 Making decisions on any complaints received in accordance with Article 21 of this Code; and
- 4-1-13 All other tasks necessary to ensure the smooth running of the electoral process.

5. Convocation and Quorum

5-1 The Electoral Committee must be convoked validly by the Chairperson to be entitled to deliberate and pass decisions.

5-2 A quorum is constituted by the majority (more than 50%) of the members.

5-3 As a general rule, the meetings of the Electoral Committee shall be held in person. However, where appropriate and with the approval of the Chairperson, meetings may be held by teleconference, video conference or other means of communication.

6. Decisions

6-1 Decisions shall be determined by an absolute majority of votes cast. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson shall exercise the casting vote.

6-2 Decisions are recorded in the minutes signed by the Chairperson and the Secretary.

Chapter Two: Candidatures

7. Eligibility

7-1 The eligibility criteria for candidatures are defined in Article 31 of the WAFF Statutes and where applicable, the AFC Statutes.

8. Submission

8-1 Candidatures shall be sent by registered post, electronically or delivered by hand with confirmation of receipt to the WAFF Secretariat in accordance with the time limits defined in the WAFF Statutes.

9. Examination

9-1 With the exception of candidatures for the position of member of the AFC Executive Committee representing the AFC (refer to Article 32.12 of the AFC Statutes), all candidatures shall be examined and an integrity check shall be conducted by the Electoral Committee. The Electoral Committee may also engage an external firm to assist with these integrity checks.

9-2 With the exception of candidates for the position of member of the AFC Executive Committee representing the AFC (refer to Article 32.12 of the AFC Statutes), the Electoral Committee shall decide on the eligibility and integrity of the candidates and shall be informed accordingly.

9-3 The official list of candidates shall be provided to the WAFF Member Associations in accordance with Article31.12 of the WAFF Statutes and shall also be published on the WAFF website.

Chapter Three: WAFF Congress

10. Deadline for Convocation

10-1 An elective WAFF Congress shall be convoked in accordance with the WAFF Statutes.

10-2 Notification shall be addressed to WAFF Member Associations in accordance with the WAFF Statutes.

10-3 The elective WAFF Congress shall be announced through the WAFF website.

11. Ballot Papers

11-1 The General Secretariat shall produce the ballot papers under the supervision and charge of the Electoral Committee. The ballot papers shall be printed clearly and legibly. The number of ballots must be checked by the Electoral Committee before voting can begin.

11-2 The ballot papers shall be a different color for each round of the election.

11-3 The ballot papers should contain the full names of the candidates running in the relevant elections, with a corresponding box for each of the candidates.

12. Urn

12-1 Before the commencement of voting, the urn for receiving votes shall be transparent, will be opened and presented to the delegates of the WAFF Congress. It shall then be closed and placed in a visible position in close proximity to the Electoral Committee.

12-2 During the voting process, the urn shall be monitored by a member of the Electoral Committee.

13. Polling Booths

13-1 Transparent polling booths shall be placed near the urn and polling station so that ballot papers may be completed in secret. No mobile phones, cameras or any other recording devices shall be allowed in the polling booths.

14. Vote

14-1 Prior to initiating the voting procedures, the Chairperson will explain the voting procedure in detail and cite any relevant statutory or legislative provisions.

14-2 Each WAFF Member Association entitled to vote will be individually called and formally invited to proceed to the front of the hall where the election is being conducted.

14-3 Upon being summoned, the voting delegate from the WAFF Member Association proceeds to the front of the hall, signs the register and receives the ballot paper.

14-4 The voting delegate representing the WAFF Member Association fills out the ballot paper within the designated polling booth.

14-5 The voting delegate representing the WAFF Member Association deposits their ballot paper in the urn and signs the electoral register before returning to their seat.

15. Count

15-1 The counting process commences after all ballot papers have been placed in the urn. The Chairperson opens the urn, and tips out the ballot papers in front of all the delegates.

15-2 Only the Electoral Committee, the Secretary and members of the WAFF General Secretariat approved by the Chairperson may take part in the count. All operations shall be carried out in a way that can be followed clearly by the WAFF Congress.

15-3 Upon opening the ballot box, the Electoral Committee counts and verifies the ballots audibly. If the number of ballot papers is equal to or fewer than those distributed, the ballots are considered valid. However, if the number exceeds that distributed, the ballots are deemed invalid and the voting process must be immediately repeated by following the aforementioned procedures.

15-4 Once the ballot papers have been verified, the Electoral Committee proceeds to tally the votes for each candidate.

15-5 The elections will be held in the following sequence by the Electoral Committee:

15-5-1 Vote for the position of President, count the votes and announce the winner of this position, then

15-5-2 Vote on the two Vice-President positions, count the votes and announce the winners of these two positions, then

15-5-3 Vote on the position of the WAFF delegate in the AFC Executive Committee, count the votes and announce the winner of this position, then

15-5-4 Vote for the position of the female member, count the votes and announce the winner of this position, then

15-5-5 Vote on the seven positions of the members, count the votes and announce the winners of these positions.

15-6 The victory of a Member Association candidate for any position results in the direct exclusion of all candidacy applications submitted by that Member Association for the remaining positions in order.

16. Invalid Ballot Papers

16-1 The following ballot papers shall be considered invalid:

16-1-1 Ballot papers that do not bear the official distinctive marks defined by the Electoral Committee.

16-1-2 Ballot papers that bear any words other than the names of the candidates

16-1-3 Ballot papers that are illegible or have markings crossed out

16-1-4 Ballot papers that bear identifying marks

16-1-5 Ballot papers that have more names than the required number of candidates

16-2 Spelling mistakes will result in the invalidity of a vote only if it is not possible to identify with certainty any of the official candidates.

16-3 The Chairperson will write the reason for invalidity on the reverse side of any invalid ballot paper using red ink and sign to confirm.

17. Declaration of Results

17-1 Once the count has been completed and verified, the Chairperson will communicate the results to the General Secretary, who shall then in turn officially declare the results to the WAFF Congress.

17-2 If a second (or subsequent) round of voting is required in accordance with the WAFF Statutes, the procedure set out in Articles 14-17 of this Code shall be repeated.

17-3 If no one is nominated for some positions or if applications for such positions are rejected because the applicants have already been appointed to other positions, the position will be vacant until it is filled in accordance with Article 31.15 of the WAFF Statutes.

18. Official Minutes

18-1 The official minutes of the WAFF Congress will be prepared and approved as outlined in Article 29 of the WAFF Statutes. The Chairperson shall also be required to sign the minutes.

18-2 The official minutes shall be distributed to the WAFF Member Associations and AFC.

19. Verification of Voters

19-1 The Electoral Committee shall designate an appropriate number of persons from the General Secretariat to be responsible for verifying the identity of the voting delegates and ensuring compliance with the voting procedure.

Chapter Four: Final Provisions

20. Archiving of Documents

20-1 The Electoral Committee shall provide all the official documents relating to the elections to the WAFF General Secretariat, which is responsible for passing them on to the relevant bodies, where required, and for archiving them in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Congress of the WAFF Statutes.

21. Complaints

21-1 For the purposes of this Code, a complaint is any objection pertaining to the conduct of an election to the WAFF Executive Committee. This includes any allegation of violation of the WAFF Statutes, this Code or any electoral regulations for elections to the WAFF Executive Committee as approved by the Electoral Committee.

21-2 To be valid, a complaint must comply with the following requirements:

21.2.1 Complaints must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Electoral Committee within twenty-one (21) days following the respective election date;

21.2.2 The complainant must demonstrate a legally protected interest in the outcome of the election and confirm that the Electoral Committee has the authority to consider the complaint;

21.2.3 The complainant must clearly identify all third parties directly affected by the complaint;

21.2.4 The complaint shall be accompanied by a detailed written report setting forth the factual grounds underlying the complaint, the relevant legal basis, as well as copies of all pertinent supporting documentation, witness statements and any additional evidence upon which the complainant intends to rely.

21-3 Should any formal requirements specified in Article 21.2 of this Code not be fulfilled, the complaint will be considered inadmissible. Such decisions on admissibility are final and binding and not appealable.

21-4 All determinations related to complaints (including those concerning admissibility), shall be made by the Electoral Committee.

21-5 If the Electoral Committee determines that a case is disciplinary in nature, it may refer the matter to the WAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

21-6 All disciplinary measures shall be executed in accordance with the WAFF Statutes and the Code of Discipline and Ethics.

22. Appeal

22-1 Subject to Article 21.3 of this Code, appeals against decisions made by the Electoral Committee may be submitted solely to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), in accordance with the WAFF Statutes and/or any entry forms provided to the Electoral Committee.

Appeals must comply with the following requirements:

22.1.1 English shall be the language used for arbitration

22.1.2 The case will be reviewed by a panel of three (3) arbitrators

22.1.3 Any hearings, if necessary, will take place in UAE.

23. Matters not provided for

23-1 All matters relating to any WAFF election not covered by this Code and/or the WAFF Statutes shall be ruled upon by the Electoral Committee.

24. Enforcement

24-1 This WAFF Electoral Code was ratified by the Executive Committee by circular resolution, in accordance with Article (8-17) of the WAFF Organization Regulations dated 17 September 2026, and shall come into force immediately.





President
Ali Bin Al-Hussein

General Secretary
Khalil Al-Salem



WAFF

إتحـــاد غـــرب أسيـــا لكـــرة القـــدم

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