

# **AFC STATUTES** (EDITION 2025)

Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes  
Standing Orders of the Congress



## **Asian Football Confederation**

President: Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa  
General Secretary: Datuk Seri Windsor John  
Address: AFC House, Jalan 1/155B, Bukit Jalil  
57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Telephone: +603 8994 3388  
Website: **[the-AFC.com](http://the-AFC.com)**



# **AFC STATUTES** (EDITION 2025)

Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes  
Standing Orders of the Congress

# CONTENTS

## STATUTES OF THE ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1: THE AFC</b>	<b>10</b>
1 Title, Legal Form, Headquarters and Language	10
2 Objectives	10
3 Human Rights, Neutrality and Non-discrimination	11
4 Promoting Friendly Relations	11
5 Laws of The Game	12
6 Conduct of Persons and Organisations	12
7 Membership	12
8 Application for Membership	14
9 Rights of Member Associations	14
10 Obligations of Member Associations	14
11 Suspension	16
12 Expulsion	17
13 Resignations	17
14 Status and Recognition of Regional Associations	18
15 Status and Recognition of Member Associations	20
16 Status of Clubs, Leagues, Domestic Associations and Other Groups of Stakeholders Affiliated to a Member Association	20
17 Honorary Appointments and Awards	20
18 AFC Organisation Regulations	21
19 Bodies	21
<b>CHAPTER 2: THE CONGRESS</b>	<b>23</b>
20 Definition and Composition of the Congress	23
21 Delegates and Voting	23
22 Area of Authority	24
23 Quorum of the Congress	24
24 Decisions of the Congress	25
25 Elections	25
26 Ordinary Congress	26
27 Ordinary Congress Agenda	27
28 Extraordinary Congress	28
29 Amendment to the Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Order of the Congress	29
30 Minutes	29
31 Effective Dates of Decisions	29

<b>CHAPTER 3: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE AND THE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>30</b>
32 The Executive Committee	30
33 Powers and Duties of The Executive Committee	33
34 Meetings and Decisions	34
35 Dismissal of a Person or Body	34
36 Emergency Committee	34
37 The President	35
38 Candidates for The Office of The AFC President	35
<b>CHAPTER 4: THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT</b>	<b>37</b>
39 General Secretariat	37
40 The General Secretary	37
<b>CHAPTER 5: THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE JUDICIAL BODIES</b>	<b>39</b>
41 Standing Committees	39
42 Finance Committee	40
43 Audit and Compliance Committee	40
44 Competitions Committee	41
45 Technical Committee	41
46 Referees Committee	41
47 Women's Football Committee	41
48 Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee	42
49 Social Responsibility Committee	42
50 Legal Committee	42
51 Medical Committee	42
52 Marketing Committee	42
53 Development Committee	42
54 Media and Communications Committee	43
55 Associations Committee	43
56 Organising Committee for AFC Asian Cup	43
57 Professional Football Committee	43
58 Judicial Bodies	43
59 Disciplinary and Ethics Committee	44
60 Appeal Committee	44
61 Entry Control Body	44
62 Sanctions	45
<b>CHAPTER 6: DISPUTE RESOLUTION</b>	<b>47</b>
63 Court of Arbitration for Sport	47
64 Disputes	47
65 Disputes of National Dimension	47
66 Jurisdiction of CAS as an Ordinary Court of Arbitration	47
67 Jurisdiction of CAS as an Appeals Arbitration Body	48

## CHAPTER 7: MISCELLANEOUS 49

68	Finances	49
69	Revenue	49
70	Expenses	49
71	External Auditors	49
72	Annual Membership Subscription	50
73	Settlement	50
74	Competitions	50
75	Club Licensing	51
76	Rights in Competitions and Events	51
77	Authorisation	51
78	International Matches and Competitions	52
79	Approval	52
80	Matters Not Provided For	52
81	Dissolution	52
82	Administration of Property	52
83	Adoption of Statutes	53

## TRANSITORY PROVISIONS 54

## REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE AFC STATUTES 55

1	Issuance and Amendment to The Regulations	55
2	Conflict of Interest	55
3	Match Agents	56
4	Football Agents	56
5	Eligibility to Play for Association Teams	56
6	Principle of Promotion and Relegation	56
7	Amendments to the Laws of The Game	57
8	Nomination of Referees	57
9	Referee Report	57
10	Reimbursement	57
11	Matters Not Provided For	58
12	Enforcement	58

<b>STANDING ORDERS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION</b>		<b>59</b>
1	Chairperson	59
2	Disciplinary Measures	59
3	Appointment of Officials	59
4	Order of Procedures	60
5	Proposals and Motions	60
6	Voting	61
7	Elections	61
8	Matters Not Provided For	61
9	Enforcement	62

# STATUTES OF THE ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

## DEFINITIONS

In interpreting these Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress:

1. “Association” means “a Football Association recognised as such by FIFA. It is a member of FIFA, unless a different meaning is evident from the context”.
2. “AFC” means the “Asian Football Confederation”.
3. “Association Football” means “the game controlled by FIFA and organised by FIFA, the Confederations and/or Member Associations in accordance with the Laws of the Game”.
4. “CAS” or “CAS (TAS)” means the “Court of Arbitration for Sport (Tribunal Arbitral du Sport) in Lausanne (Switzerland)”.
5. “Club” means a “professional club or an amateur club which participates in Leagues or competitions under the auspices of a Football Association”.
6. “Committee” means “any Committee of the AFC as constituted in accordance with the Statutes”.
7. “Confederation” means “a group of Member Associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographic region)”.
8. “Congress” means “the supreme and legislative body of the AFC”.
9. “Delegate” means “a natural person appointed and registered to represent a Member Association at the Congress pursuant to Article 21 of these Statutes”.
10. “Domestic Association” means “an organisation subordinate to a Football Association”.
11. “Executive Committee” means “the executive body of the AFC”.
12. “FIFA” means “Fédération Internationale de Football Association”.
13. “Football” means, as the context requires, “any or all types of football including without limitation futsal and beach soccer”.
14. “Football Agent” has the meaning given to it in the FIFA Football Agent Regulations.
15. “Football Association” means “the controlling body for Football within a country or territory recognised by the AFC”.
16. “IFAB” means “The International Football Association Board”.
17. “Laws of the Game” means “the laws of association football issued by The IFAB”.



18. “League” means “a professional league and/or amateur league which consists of a combination of clubs within the territory of a Football Association and which is subordinate to and under the authority of that Football Association”.
19. “Member Association” means “a Football Association which is a member of the AFC”.
20. “Normalisation Committee” means “a committee comprising of individuals appointed by FIFA in consultation with the AFC to replace the executive bodies of an Association for a specific period of time”.
21. “Officials” means “all office bearers and members of various Committees, managers, coaches, trainers, match officials, medical officials, staff and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in the AFC, Regional Associations, Football Associations, Leagues or Clubs as well as other persons obliged to comply with the AFC Statutes (except Players and Football Agents)”.
22. “Player” means a “professional or amateur football player licensed with a Football Association”.
23. “Regional Association” means “a group of Member Associations recognised by the AFC that belong to the same geographic zone”.
24. “Regulations” means “without limitation, the rules, regulations, codes, instructions and directives as promulgated by the Executive Committee”.
25. “Stakeholder” means “a person, entity or organisation which has an interest or concern in the AFC’s activities and/or which may affect or be affected by the AFC’s actions, objectives and policies, including, without limitation: (a) FIFA, Confederations, Regional Associations and Member Associations; (b) Clubs, Players, supporters, referees, coaches, Leagues and associations of any of the foregoing; and (c) public authorities, non-governmental organisations, commercial partners, sponsors, media and broadcasters”.

---

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

---

## CHAPTER 1: THE AFC

### ARTICLE 1: Title, Legal Form, Headquarters and Language

1. The organisation shall be called the “Asian Football Confederation” or “AFC”.
2. The AFC is an association registered pursuant to Section 7 of the Societies Act 1966 of the Laws of Malaysia.
3. The AFC is a Confederation recognised by FIFA.
4. The headquarters of the AFC shall be in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and may only be transferred by a resolution of the Congress.
5. The official languages of the AFC shall be English and Arabic.
6. The official languages of Congress shall be English and Arabic.
7. These Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress shall be issued in the two official languages of the AFC. In the case of any discrepancy, the English version shall be authoritative.

### ARTICLE 2: Objectives

The objectives of the AFC are:

- a) to improve the game of Football constantly and promote, regulate and control it in the territory of the AFC in the light of the principle of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
- b) to foster friendly relationships between and amongst Stakeholders;
- c) to engage Stakeholders in connection with the development of Asian football;
- d) to control all types of Football, ensure compliance and prevent infringements of the Statutes, Codes, Rules, Regulations, Standing Orders, Directives and Decisions of FIFA, the AFC and the Laws of the Game;
- e) to organise and manage international Football competitions at Asian level;
- f) to use its efforts to ensure that the game of Football is available to and resourced for all who wish to participate regardless of gender or age;
- g) to draw up regulations and provisions governing the game of Football and all related matters and ensure their enforcement;
- h) to promote women’s Football, including its development, and to advance full inclusion of women throughout all types of Football and at all levels, including in governance and technical roles;

- i) to safeguard the interests of Member Associations;
- j) to promote integrity, ethics and the principle of fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardise the integrity of matches, competitions, players, officials and Member Associations or give rise to the abuse of Football;
- k) to institute strong measures and campaigns against bribery, corruption, drugs and racism in Football;
- l) to assist to settle disputes between Member Associations;
- m) to ensure that its representatives in FIFA actively represent the collective views of the AFC and do so in the true spirit of Asian solidarity;
- n) to disseminate information on AFC activities and, where appropriate, FIFA activities;
- o) to generate revenue from Football and redistribute such revenue in accordance with the principle of solidarity, and to purchase and hold assets for the benefit of Football;
- p) to increase awareness of Football in Asia, ensure the continued relevance of Football in Asia and grow Asian Football's fan base; and
- q) to regulate, develop and promote Football esports events and/or competitions.

### **ARTICLE 3: HUMAN RIGHTS, NEUTRALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION**

1. The AFC is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.
2. The AFC is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
3. Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, age, physical appearance, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.
4. Harassment of any nature (including sexual harassment) is forbidden.
5. The AFC shall attribute particular attention to protecting the welfare and interests of children and young adults throughout all types of Football and all related activities.
6. The AFC shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third parties.

### **ARTICLE 4: PROMOTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS**

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

2. Every person and organisation involved in the game of Football is obliged to observe the Statutes, Regulations and the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.
3. The AFC shall, in accordance with these Statutes, provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any dispute that may arise between Member Associations, Clubs, Officials and Players on the territory of the AFC.

## **ARTICLE 5: LAWS OF THE GAME**

The AFC and Member Associations shall organise and/or play:

- a) Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by The IFAB. Only The IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game;
- b) Futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA; and
- c) Beach Soccer in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA.

## **ARTICLE 6: CONDUCT OF PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS**

1. Every person and organisation directly or indirectly bound by these Statutes must observe these Statutes and any Regulations, Directives, and Decisions of the AFC.
2. Every person and organisation directly or indirectly bound by these Statutes is obliged to observe the Statutes and regulations of FIFA as well as the principles of fair play.

## **ARTICLE 7: MEMBERSHIP**

1. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, the Congress, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member Association. The Executive Committee shall issue regulations governing the application, admission and status of members of the AFC.
2. Any Football Association which is responsible for governing and supervising football in all of its forms in its country may become a Member Association. In this context, the term “country” shall refer to a state recognised as independent by a majority of members of the United Nations.
3. The Member Associations shall be geographically located in the Asian continent. However, a Football Association that is situated in another continent may be admitted to membership provided that it is not a member of any other Confederation. Such an admission must be in accordance with the FIFA Statutes.
4. Only one (1) Football Association shall be officially recognised by the AFC in each country or territory.
5. Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member Association from its due financial obligations towards the AFC or other Member Associations, but leads to cancellation of all rights in relation to the AFC.

6. Membership shall be “Ordinary” or “Associate”.
  - a) “Ordinary Membership” may be granted by the Congress to a Football Association or to an “Associate” member who has undertaken the minimum period;
  - b) “Associate Membership” may be granted by the Executive Committee to any new applicant who is not already a member of FIFA for a minimum period of two (2) years.
7. “Ordinary” members shall be entitled to all the rights and obligations of a Member Association as set out in these Statutes.
8. “Associate” members shall be entitled to all the rights and obligations of a Member Association as set out in these Statutes except:
  - a) the right to vote at the AFC Congress or the AFC Extraordinary Congress;
  - b) to nominate candidates for all bodies of the AFC that are subject to election;
  - c) the right to receive any development programme funding; and
  - d) the right to participate in FIFA final competitions, unless otherwise permitted in accordance with the FIFA Statutes and regulations.
9. Article 7.2 shall not affect the status of existing Member Associations.
10. The Member Associations shall be divided into five (5) geographic zones:

WEST	SOUTH	CENTRAL	ASEAN	EAST
Bahrain	Bangladesh	Afghanistan	Australia	China PR
Iraq	Bhutan	Islamic Republic of Iran	Brunei Darussalam	Chinese Taipei
Jordan	India	Kyrgyz Republic	Cambodia	DPR Korea
Kuwait	Maldives	Tajikistan	Indonesia	Guam
Lebanon	Nepal	Turkmenistan	Laos	Hong Kong, China
Oman	Pakistan	Uzbekistan	Malaysia	Japan
Palestine	Sri Lanka		Myanmar	Korea Republic
Qatar			Philippines	Macau
Saudi Arabia			Singapore	Mongolia
Syria			Thailand	Northern Mariana Islands
UAE			Timor-Leste	
Yemen			Vietnam	
<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>

TOTAL: 47 Member Associations

## **ARTICLE 8: APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Regulations Governing the Admission of Football Associations govern applications for AFC membership and reclassification of AFC membership status.
2. All applications for membership shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the AFC to the General Secretariat and must comply with said regulations.
3. A new Member Association shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted. Delegates representing “Ordinary” members are eligible to vote with immediate effect provided that the Delegate with the right to vote has been identified to the General Secretariat under the procedures set out in Article 21.

## **ARTICLE 9: RIGHTS OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

1. The Member Associations have the following rights:
  - a) to take part in the Congress, and exercise their voting rights at the Congress;
  - b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
  - c) to nominate candidates for all bodies of the AFC that are subject to election;
  - d) to propose individuals to be appointed to the Standing Committees and to be elected to the judicial bodies;
  - e) to be informed of the affairs of the AFC through the official bodies of the AFC;
  - f) to bid to host and to take part in the AFC competitions, through their representative teams and clubs and/or other activities or programmes organised by the AFC; and
  - g) to benefit from the rights and privileges granted to them by these Statutes and applicable Regulations;
2. The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and applicable Regulations.

## **ARTICLE 10: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

1. Member Associations have the following obligations:
  - a) to comply fully with the Statutes, Codes, Rules and Regulations, Directives and Decisions of FIFA and the AFC, and Decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) passed in accordance with Article 66 and/or 67 of the AFC Statutes at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
  - b) to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies;
  - c) to convene its supreme and legislative body at regular intervals, at least every two (2) years;

- d) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the FIFA Statutes;
- e) to take part in competitions and other activities or programmes organised by the AFC;
- f) to pay their membership subscriptions;
- g) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by The IFAB as well as the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;
- h) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the Statutes, Regulations, Directives and Decisions of FIFA and the AFC shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate arbitration tribunal recognised by the AFC and FIFA and that any recourse to ordinary courts is prohibited;
- i) to communicate to the AFC any amendment of its Statutes, rules and regulations in English as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorised signatories, with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with the AFC and third parties;
- j) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised by FIFA and the AFC or with Member Associations that have been suspended or expelled;
- k) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
- l) to observe the mandatory items specified within the relevant Regulations for the duration of their membership;
- m) to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;
- n) to apply a club licensing system according to the minimum requirement set by the AFC from time to time. Member Associations shall include such an obligation and define the licensing bodies in their statutes;
- o) to recognise each of the other Member Associations as the sole controlling body of Football in their respective countries and territories;
- p) not to form themselves into Regional Associations or federations without the consent of FIFA and the AFC;
- q) to regulate all Leagues and Clubs which exist within their geographical territory;
- r) to be held responsible for the good conduct and all financial commitments of their Clubs towards FIFA and the AFC;
- s) to notify FIFA and the AFC promptly of any change in its address and in the name of principal office bearers;

- t) to manage its affairs independently and with no influence from any third parties, even if such third party influence was not the fault of the Member Association concerned. In particular, without limitation, a Member Association may be considered to have failed to comply with the foregoing obligation if any third party influences its affairs to such an extent that it may no longer be considered to be the controlling body for Football in its country or territory, it is no longer in a position to operate in accordance with its statutes, the smooth running of its matches and/or competitions is no longer guaranteed, and/or there is reason to question the independence of its electoral processes.
  - u) to invite the AFC to attend its congress;
  - v) to protect the welfare and interests of children and young adults throughout all types of Football and all related activities through the implementation of appropriate best practices;
  - w) to prevent and fight against any kind of discrimination;
  - x) to promote the development of women's Football and the full participation of women at all levels; and
  - y) to be neutral in matters of politics and religion, and to ensure that its members, affiliated Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials also respect this principle.
2. Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member Association may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes. Each Member Association is responsible towards FIFA and the AFC for any and all acts of the members of their bodies caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of such members.

## ARTICLE 11: SUSPENSION

1. Subject to Articles 11.2 and 11.3 of these Statutes, the Congress may suspend a Member Association that violates its obligations under these Statutes at the request of the Executive Committee. The Member Association shall be granted an opportunity to be heard before any decision is taken by the Congress.
2. The Executive Committee may, without a vote of the Congress, temporarily suspend with immediate effect a Member Association that seriously violates its obligations under these Statutes. A suspension approved by the Executive Committee shall last until the next Congress, unless the Executive Committee has revoked such suspension prior to the Congress.
3. In the event a Member Association is suspended by FIFA, such suspension will be automatically applied and enforced by the AFC. For the avoidance of doubt, in such a situation, Articles 11.4, 11.5 and 11.6 of these Statutes shall not be applicable.
4. A suspension of a Member Association by the Congress requires a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.



5. A suspension of a Member Association by the Executive Committee pursuant to Article 11.2 of these Statutes shall be confirmed at the next Congress by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote. The Member Association shall be granted an opportunity to be heard before any such decision is taken by the Congress. If it is not confirmed, such suspension shall be lifted.
6. The Congress may lift the suspension of a Member Association at the request of the Executive Committee. The lifting of the suspension of a Member Association by the Congress requires a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.
7. A suspended Member Association shall lose its membership rights. Other Member Associations shall not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member Association. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions.
8. Any member of a Standing Committee, Ad-Hoc Committee and/or task force who is affiliated to a suspended Member Association shall automatically be removed from their position on the relevant Standing Committee, Ad-Hoc Committee and/or task force.
9. Member Associations which do not participate in at least two (2) of the AFC's competitions (as determined by the Executive Committee) over a period of two (2) consecutive years immediately prior to a Congress shall be suspended from voting at the Congress until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

## ARTICLE 12: EXPULSION

1. The Congress may expel a Member Association solely at the request of the Executive Committee if, without limitation:
  - a) it fails to fulfill its financial obligations towards the AFC;
  - b) it seriously violates its own Statutes, Codes, Rules, Regulations and Standing Orders or those of the AFC or FIFA; and/or
  - c) it ceases to have the legal status of a Football Association in its own country or territory.

The Member Association shall be granted an opportunity to be heard before any such decision is taken by the Congress.

2. The presence at the Congress of a simple majority (more than 50%) of the Member Associations eligible to vote at the Congress is necessary for a vote to expel a Member Association to be valid.
3. The motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.

## ARTICLE 13: RESIGNATIONS

1. Subject to Article 13.2, a Member Association may resign from the AFC with effect from the end of a calendar year. Notice of resignation must reach the General Secretariat no later than six (6) months before the end of the calendar year and be sent by registered letter.

2. Resignation shall not affect any existing financial obligations towards the AFC or its Member Associations.
3. A resigning Member Association shall be required to provide the following with the notice of resignation:
  - a) the minutes from its congress at which the resignation was approved; and
  - b) proof that all of its liabilities towards the AFC and the Member Associations have been discharged.

## **ARTICLE 14: STATUS AND RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

1. Member Associations that belong to the same geographic zone as set out in Article 7.10 have formed the following Regional Associations, which are recognised by the AFC:
  - a) ASEAN Football Federation – AFF (ASEAN Zone)
  - b) Central Asian Football Association – CAFA (Central Zone)
  - c) East Asian Football Federation – EAFF (East Zone)
  - d) South Asian Football Federation – SAFF (South Zone)
  - e) West Asian Football Federation – WAFF (West Zone)
2. Each of these Regional Associations shall have the following rights:
  - a) Participate in the proceedings of the AFC Congress as observers;
  - b) Organise its own competitions, in compliance with the AFC and FIFA international calendar;
  - c) Benefit from the rights and privileges granted to them by these Statutes and applicable Regulations; and
  - d) Elect one (1) Executive Committee member at their respective Congress in a manner consistent with the AFC Statutes and the AFC Electoral Code.
3. Each of the Regional Associations shall have the following obligations:
  - a) Adopt statutes which comply with the principles of good governance (in particular, those matters referred to in Article 14.4) and all AFC recommendations;
  - b) Submit their statutes and regulations, as revised from time to time, to the AFC for approval;
  - c) Ensure the election of their decision-making bodies;
  - d) Invite the AFC to attend their respective congresses;

- e) Fully comply with the Statutes, regulations, directives, and decisions of the AFC and FIFA;
  - f) Work in close collaboration with the AFC in all spheres in order to attain the objectives of the AFC; and
  - g) To be neutral in matters of politics and religion, and to ensure that its members, affiliated Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials also respect this principle.
4. The Regional Association's statutes shall contain, as a minimum, provisions relating to the following requirements:
- a) neutrality in matters of politics and religion;
  - b) the prohibition of all forms of discrimination;
  - c) independence and avoidance of any form of political interference;
  - d) the independence of judicial bodies;
  - e) the obligation that all relevant stakeholders must agree to respect the Laws of the Game and the principles of loyalty, integrity, sportsmanship and fair play, as well as the Statutes, regulations, directives, and decisions of the AFC and FIFA;
  - f) the obligation that all relevant stakeholders must agree to recognise the jurisdiction and authority of the CAS and give priority to arbitration as a means of dispute resolution;
  - g) the regulation of matters relating to refereeing, the fight against doping, the imposition of disciplinary measures (including for ethical misconduct), measures required to protect the integrity of competitions and, where applicable, club licensing;
  - h) defining the competences of each of the Regional Association's decision-making bodies;
  - i) the avoidance of conflicts of interest in decision-making;
  - j) the requirement that legislative bodies must be constituted in accordance with the principles of representative democracy and taking into account the importance of gender equality in football; and
  - k) the yearly independent audit of accounts.
5. The AFC may allocate other duties or powers to one or more (or all) Regional Associations by way of agreements with the Regional Association(s) concerned.

## **ARTICLE 15: STATUS AND RECOGNITION OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

1. The executive body of a Member Association shall be elected by the congress, even on an interim basis, within the Member Association. The statutes of a Member Association shall provide for a democratic election procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election.
2. The AFC shall not recognise the executive body of a Member Association, even on an interim basis, if it has not been elected in accordance with Article 15.1, except if the executive body is established as a Normalisation Committee.
3. Only decisions passed by bodies that have been constituted in accordance with Articles 15.1 and 15.2 may be recognised by the AFC.
4. Member Associations shall manage their affairs independently and without undue influence from third parties.

## **ARTICLE 16: STATUS OF CLUBS, LEAGUES, DOMESTIC ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER AFFILIATES OF A MEMBER ASSOCIATION**

1. Clubs, Leagues, Domestic Associations or any other affiliates of a Member Association shall be subordinate to and recognised by that Member Association. The Member Association statutes shall define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these Clubs and groups. Their statutes and regulations must be approved by the Member Association.
2. Every Member Association shall ensure that its affiliates take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.
3. In any case, the Member Association shall ensure that no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) exercise third-party control in any manner whatsoever (in particular through a majority shareholding, a majority of voting rights, a majority of seats on the board of directors or any other form of economic dependence or control etc.) over more than one (1) Club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

## **ARTICLE 17: HONORARY APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS**

### **I. Honorary appointment**

1. Congress may confer the following Honorary appointment on individuals for meritorious services rendered to the AFC upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee:
  - a) Honorary President;
  - b) Honorary Vice President; and/or
  - c) Honorary Member.

2. Such honorary officials may take part in the Congress. They may join in the debates but are not entitled to vote.
3. Such honorary officials may be invited to the AFC competitions, official functions and events.

## **II. AFC Diamond of Asia Award**

1. The AFC Diamond of Asia Award is the most prestigious and honoured AFC Award.
2. The Executive Committee may confer the AFC Diamond of Asia Award to individuals who have rendered meritorious services to the development and promotion of football in the Asian Continent, both at the Member Association and AFC level.
3. The Executive Committee will nominate the eligible candidates for this award.
4. Should there be different names put forward, the Executive Committee will delegate to a sub-committee. The sub-committee will be responsible for providing a shortlist with recommendations to the Executive Committee.
5. The award, however, may not be presented if the Executive Committee decides there is no suitable candidate in any given year.
6. The selection criteria for the Diamond of Asia Award shall be based on the following:
  - a) outstanding achievement in Football, leadership ability and community involvement; and
  - b) the individual will have to be free of any major disciplinary sanctions or suspensions.
7. The recipients of this award will enjoy a distinguished position within the AFC, and will be entitled to special privileges, including:
  - a) invitations to AFC competitions (specifically opening and final matches); and
  - b) invitations to AFC official functions and events.

## **ARTICLE 18: AFC ORGANISATION REGULATIONS**

The Executive Committee shall establish AFC Organisation Regulations to support and supplement these Statutes as required.

## **ARTICLE 19: BODIES**

1. The Congress is the supreme and legislative body of the AFC.
2. The Executive Committee is the executive body of the AFC.
3. The General Secretariat is the administrative body of the AFC.

4. The Standing and Ad Hoc Committees shall assist the Executive Committee in the performance of its duties in accordance with the AFC Organisation Regulations and these Statutes.
5. The judicial bodies of the AFC are the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, the Entry Control Body and the Appeal Committee. The responsibilities and functions of the judicial bodies shall be stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code and in the Procedural Rules Governing the AFC Entry Control Body, which are issued by the Executive Committee.
6. The independent external auditors shall perform all audits of the AFC's accounts and financial statements as required by Malaysian law.
7. The AFC may from time to time establish other bodies which it deems necessary for the development of football in Asia.
8. The members of the bodies of the AFC shall be either elected or appointed by the AFC itself (as appropriate) without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes.

## CHAPTER 2: THE CONGRESS

### ARTICLE 20: DEFINITION AND COMPOSITION OF THE CONGRESS

1. The Congress is the meeting at which all Member Associations of the AFC convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of the AFC. Only a Congress that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.
2. A Congress may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress. As a general rule, a Congress will be conducted in person. However, if the circumstances so require, a Congress may be held by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication.
3. The President shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with the Standing Orders of the Congress.

### ARTICLE 21: DELEGATES AND VOTING

1. Each Member Association shall have one (1) vote and is entitled to be represented by a maximum of three (3) Delegates to participate in the Congress. It is recommended that at least one (1) of the Delegates be a woman. One (1) of the three (3) Delegates shall exercise the right to vote on behalf of the Member Association. "Associate" Member Associations shall be entitled to be represented by a maximum of three (3) Delegates to participate in the Congress without voting rights.
2. The names of the three (3) Delegates must reach the General Secretariat, by registered post or electronic mail at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the Congress indicating the Delegate authorised to vote.
3. No Delegate shall be allowed to represent more than one (1) Member Association. Only the authorised Delegates who are present are entitled to vote. Attendance by teleconference, by videoconference or by any other means of communication shall constitute presence. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted. When a Congress is held by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication, voting online is permitted.
4. Delegates must belong to the Member Association that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member Association. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.
5. During their term of office, members of the Executive Committee shall not be appointed as Delegates for their Member Association.
6. The Executive Committee may at its discretion invite any person or persons to the Congress who may attend and participate in the Congress without voting rights.
7. The Executive Committee and the General Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights.

## ARTICLE 22: AREA OF AUTHORITY

The Congress has the following authority:

- a) adopting or amending the Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress (cf. Article 27);
- b) appointing three (3) Members to check the minutes;
- c) approving the minutes of the preceding Congress;
- d) electing the Executive Committee (cf. Article 32);
- e) electing the judicial bodies upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- f) appointing the scrutineers (cf. Article 27);
- g) approving the financial statements;
- h) approving the budget;
- i) approving the General Secretary's activity report;
- j) appointing the independent external auditors upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- k) deciding, upon the nomination of the Executive Committee, whether to confer honorary titles and awards;
- l) admitting, reclassifying, suspending or expelling a Member Association upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- m) dismissing a person or body (cf. Article 35);
- n) dissolving the AFC; and
- o) consider and act upon proposals submitted by a Member Association or the Executive Committee in accordance with these Statutes.

## ARTICLE 23: QUORUM OF THE CONGRESS

1. The quorum for the Congress shall be the simple majority (more than 50%) of the Member Associations eligible to vote.
2. If a quorum is not achieved, a second Congress shall take place twenty-four (24) hours after the first, with the same agenda.



## ARTICLE 24: DECISIONS OF THE CONGRESS

1. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a proposal or motion shall be passed if supported by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.
2. Spoiled or blank voting slips or any other forms of abstentions are disregarded in calculating the applicable majority.
3. A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count except in cases of elections which shall be carried out in accordance with the AFC Electoral Code. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a proposal or motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in English alphabetical order.

## ARTICLE 25: ELECTIONS

1. The AFC Electoral Code and any relevant FIFA regulations shall govern any elective Congress.
2. The election of office-bearers at the Congress shall be by secret ballot. Where a candidate has no opponent for the seat, they may be elected by acclamation. No voting by letter or proxy is permitted.
3. The position of the President shall be elected as follows:
  - a) where there are two (2) candidates on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is necessary; and
  - b) where there are more than two (2) candidates on the first ballot, two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote are necessary. Should no candidate receive two-thirds (2/3) of the votes on the first ballot, all candidates move to the second ballot. From the second ballot (if required) onwards, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is necessary. If no candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot. This process shall continue (if required) until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is achieved.
4. The other positions listed in Article 32 (excluding the positions listed in Article 32.1 (f) which are dealt with in Article 25.5) shall be elected as follows:
  - a) where there is one (1) position available on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is necessary. If no candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot. All subsequent ballots shall require a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote to be achieved. This process shall continue until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is achieved;

- b) where there is more than one (1) position available on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is necessary. Where:
    - i) at least one (1) candidate is elected but not all positions are filled, all remaining candidates shall move into the subsequent ballot;
    - ii) no candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot;
  - c) all subsequent ballots shall require a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote to be achieved. This process shall continue until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is achieved;
- 5. The positions listed in Article 32.1 (f) shall be elected by the Regional Associations on the occasion of their respective Regional Association congresses.
  - 6. The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and members of the judicial bodies shall be elected by the Congress by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote.

## **ARTICLE 26: ORDINARY CONGRESS**

- 1. The Ordinary Congress shall be held annually.
- 2. The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date. Notice of the Ordinary Congress shall be given by registered post or electronic mail to all Member Associations not later than six (6) months before the scheduled date of the Congress unless decided otherwise by the Executive Committee.
- 3. The General Secretary shall, not later than thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress, provide to the Member Associations by registered post or electronic mail the following:
  - a) the agenda of the Congress;
  - b) the report of the General Secretary;
  - c) the Financial Statements and the independent external auditors' report;
  - d) the names of the candidates for election;
  - e) proposals for amendments and/or alterations to the Statutes, if any; and
  - f) any other proposal submitted by Member Associations or the Executive Committee for which due notice has been given.

## ARTICLE 27: ORDINARY CONGRESS AGENDA

1. The agenda of the Congress shall comprise the following:
  - a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes;
  - b) the approval of the Congress agenda;
  - c) an address by the President;
  - d) the appointment of three (3) scrutineers to check the voting;
  - e) the appointment of three (3) members to check the official minutes;
  - f) suspension or expulsion of a Member Association (if applicable);
  - g) dismissal of a person or body (if applicable);
  - h) the approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress;
  - i) the AFC activity report for the period preceding Congress;
  - j) the reports of the Committees and bodies;
  - k) the approval of the statement of accounts and the independent external auditors' reports;
  - l) the approval of the budget (if applicable);
  - m) admission for membership (if applicable);
  - n) the proposals for amendments and alterations to the AFC Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the AFC Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress of the AFC (if applicable);
  - o) consideration of proposals (if any) submitted by Member Associations or the Executive Committee in accordance with these Statutes;
  - p) appointment of independent external auditors (if applicable);
  - q) bestowal of Honorary Titles (if applicable);
  - r) the election of the judicial bodies upon the proposal of the Executive Committee (as applicable):
    - i) Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and members of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee;

- ii) Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and members of the Entry Control Body; and
  - iii) Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and members of the Appeal Committee.
  - s) the election of the (as applicable):
    - i) President (who shall assume the position of FIFA Vice President ex officio);
    - ii) five (5) Vice Presidents (one (1) from each zone);
    - iii) six (6) FIFA Council members, one (1) of whom shall also be a Female Executive Committee member;
    - iv) five (5) Female Executive Committee members (one (1) from each zone), one (1) of whom shall also be a FIFA Council member; and
    - v) nine (9) Executive Committee members.
  - t) vote on the designation of the host Member Association of the AFC Asian Cup final competition (as applicable).
2. Any proposal that a Member Association wishes to submit to the Congress shall be sent to the AFC General Secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least six (6) weeks before the date of the Congress.
3. Any motion to amend and/or alter the agenda of an Ordinary Congress must be adopted by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.

## **ARTICLE 28: EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS**

1. An Extraordinary Congress may be convened:
- a) by the Executive Committee whenever deemed necessary;
  - b) in the event the office of the President falls vacant for more than one (1) year; or
  - c) upon a written request by at least one third (1/3) of the Member Associations within sixty (60) days of receipt of the written request.
2. The date and venue shall be determined by the Executive Committee and notified to the Member Associations by registered post or electronic mail at least thirty (30) days before the Extraordinary Congress.
3. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened on the initiative of the Executive Committee, it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened upon the request of Member Associations, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Member Associations.

4. The motion to amend and/or alter the agenda of an Extraordinary Congress must be adopted by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.
5. An Extraordinary Congress shall be conducted in the same manner as the Ordinary Congress.

## **ARTICLE 29: AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTES, REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE STATUTES AND THE STANDING ORDER OF THE CONGRESS**

1. Only the Congress may amend or alter the Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress.
2. Proposals to amend or alter the Statutes may either be submitted by: (i) a Member Association and seconded by two (2) others to the General Secretariat; or (ii) the Executive Committee. The proposals submitted shall be in writing with a brief explanation.
3. Proposals to amend the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress may be submitted by: (i) a Member Association to the General Secretariat; or (ii) the Executive Committee. The proposals submitted shall be in writing with a brief explanation.
4. All amendments and alterations to the Statutes shall only be adopted with the approval of three-quarters (3/4) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.
5. All amendments to the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and/or the Standing Orders of the Congress shall be adopted only with the approval of a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.
6. The presence of a simple majority (more than 50%) of the Member Associations eligible to vote at the Congress is necessary for a vote to amend or alter the Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress to be valid.

## **ARTICLE 30: MINUTES**

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

## **ARTICLE 31: EFFECTIVE DATES OF DECISIONS**

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

## CHAPTER 3: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE AND THE PRESIDENT

### ARTICLE 32: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of thirty (30) members, as follows:
  - a) President (who shall assume the position of FIFA Vice President ex officio);
  - b) five (5) Vice Presidents (one (1) from each zone);
  - c) six (6) FIFA Council members, one (1) of whom shall also be a Female Executive Committee member;
  - d) five (5) Female Executive Committee members (one (1) from each zone), one (1) of whom shall also be a FIFA Council member;
  - e) nine (9) Executive Committee members; and
  - f) five (5) Executive Committee members from the Regional Associations (one (1) from each Regional Association), each elected at the respective Regional Association congress.

The election shall follow the order set out above for the positions listed in Article 32.1 (a) to (e) from amongst the candidates nominated by the Member Associations.

2. Upon being elected, every member of the Executive Committee undertakes, and accepts responsibility, to faithfully, loyally and independently act in the best interests of the AFC and the promotion and development of Football at Asian level. Members of the Executive Committee may not enter into any business or employment relationship with the AFC during their term of office and for a period of one (1) year after their term of office.
3. The Congress shall elect the President (and ex officio FIFA Vice President) from any zone without affecting the quota of the zone from which they originate.
4. The Congress shall elect the six (6) representatives to the FIFA Council from any zone without limiting the number from any zone. One (1) position shall be reserved for a Female Executive Committee member. Candidate(s) elected to the FIFA Council shall be included in the quota of their respective zone.
5. The Congress shall elect the five (5) Vice Presidents one from each zone.
6. The Congress shall elect the five (5) Female Executive Committee members one from each zone. One (1) shall also be elected as female representative to the FIFA Council.
7. The Executive Committee, excluding the President and members from the Regional Associations, shall be elected in accordance with the zonal quota as follows:

<b>WEST ASIA</b>	<b>6 SEATS</b>
<b>SOUTH ASIA</b>	<b>4 SEATS</b>
<b>CENTRAL ASIA</b>	<b>3 SEATS</b>
<b>ASEAN</b>	<b>6 SEATS</b>
<b>EAST ASIA</b>	<b>5 SEATS</b>

Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, no member of the Executive Committee shall occupy more than one of the positions listed in Article 32.1(a) to 1(f) above.

8. Members of the Executive Committee shall serve the term of four (4) years and are eligible for re-election. A member of the Executive Committee shall not at the same time be a member of any of the judicial bodies.
9. Every candidate nominated to the Executive Committee, including the President, shall be under the age of seventy (70) as at the date of the election. Every candidate nominated is required to submit the relevant documents to the General Secretariat for verification in accordance with the AFC Electoral Code.
10. Candidates for the positions of President (and ex officio FIFA Vice President) and FIFA Council member must pass an eligibility check carried out by FIFA in accordance with the FIFA Statutes and applicable FIFA regulations.
11. Candidates for all other positions elected at the Congress (excluding, for the avoidance of doubt, the positions listed in Article 32.1 (f) which are dealt with in Article 32.12) must pass an eligibility check carried out by the AFC Electoral Committee. The standard of the eligibility check shall be of the same level as that conducted by FIFA prior to the election of the FIFA Council positions.
12. The five (5) Executive Committee members representing the Regional Associations shall be elected by the Regional Associations on the occasion of their Regional Association congresses in a manner consistent with the AFC Statutes and the AFC Electoral Code. Candidates must pass an eligibility check carried out by the AFC Electoral Committee in accordance with the AFC Electoral Code prior to their involvement in any election. For this reason, Regional Associations must notify the AFC General Secretariat of the names of proposed candidates by registered post or electronic mail at least ninety (90) days before the date of the relevant congress. The election shall be monitored by the AFC. Candidates shall assume their role on the Executive Committee thirty (30) days after their successful election.
13. Subject to Article 38.2 which relates to candidates for the office of the AFC President and Article 32.12 which relates to Executive Committee members representing Regional Associations, every candidate nominated to the Executive Committee for election must be by name and shall be proposed by their Football Association using the prescribed form(s). Such nomination shall be submitted by registered post or electronic mail to reach the General Secretariat not later than four (4) months before the date of the Congress. Each nomination must be in accordance with the further provisions contained within the AFC Electoral Code. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for any FIFA Council position, the nomination process for candidates must comply with the timings and requirements of the FIFA Statutes and applicable FIFA regulations, and so appropriate adjustments may be made to the timings applicable to the nomination process for FIFA Council positions.

14. Without prejudice to each Member Association's rights under Article 38.2 which relates to candidates for the office of the AFC President, a Member Association shall not propose more than one (1) candidate for any position in the Executive Committee. A candidate may be proposed for one (1) of the positions specified in Article 32.1 (b) to (e) only.
15. If a Member Association proposes more than one (1) candidate for a position in the Executive Committee, or proposes a candidate for more than one (1) position in the Executive Committee, all proposals submitted by that Member Association shall be declared invalid.
16. No Member Association shall be eligible to be represented by more than one (1) member in the Executive Committee. This shall include the members referred to in Article 32.1 (f) of these Statutes.
17. All candidates, including those individuals appointed pursuant to Article 32.21 of the Statutes, must be persons who have served football in various capacities at club, regional, national and/or confederation level and citizens of the country or territory represented by their respective Football Association.
18. The General Secretariat shall notify the Member Associations and Regional Associations of the names of proposed candidates by registered post or electronic mail at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress.
19. The Senior Vice President shall be appointed by the Executive Committee upon the proposal of the President from amongst the elected Vice Presidents. In the absence of an appointment, the longest-serving Vice President (firstly taking account of such person's full duration of service on the Executive Committee as Vice President, secondly (if necessary in the event of a tie) taking account of such person's full duration of service on the Executive Committee in any capacity, and finally (if necessary in the event of a tie) taking account of such person's seniority in age) shall be deemed to be the Senior Vice President.
20. If the President ceases to carry out or is prevented from performing their duties, the Senior Vice President shall deputise and assume the powers and responsibility of the President until the next Congress subject to the provisions of Article 28.1 (b).
21. If a position is vacant following an election, an election for such position for the remaining term of mandate shall, so long as time permits, take place at the next Ordinary Congress or Extraordinary Congress as applicable.

In the interim, the Executive Committee, if proposed by the President, shall fill that position with the proposed individual, who will undergo an eligibility check in line with Article 32.11 of these Statutes. For the avoidance of doubt, any individual who fills a position on an interim basis shall not have the right to vote.

The foregoing provisions regarding interim appointments shall also apply in respect of a position referred to in Article 32.1 (f) of these Statutes in circumstances where no candidate is elected by the relevant Regional Association, until such time as the election takes place.



## ARTICLE 33: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to make decisions on all matters, which are not exclusive to the Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes, including the release of the funds of the AFC towards the fulfilment of its objectives.
2. The duties of the Executive Committee are as follows:
  - a) to carry out the objectives of the AFC;
  - b) to prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of the AFC;
  - c) to ensure that the Statutes are applied, and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
  - d) to approve regulations stipulating how the AFC shall be organised internally;
  - e) to formulate the Rules, Regulations, Standing Orders and Instructions of the AFC;
  - f) to appoint the Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons and members of the Standing Committees;
  - g) to propose to the Congress the individuals to be elected or dismissed as Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons and members of the judicial bodies;
  - h) to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary at any time;
  - i) to approve and submit to the Congress the following:
    - i) the reports of the General Secretary and the various Committees and bodies;
    - ii) the Statement of Accounts and the independent external auditors' report;
    - iii) the budget;
    - iv) all proposals for amendments and alterations to the AFC Statutes, AFC Regulations Governing the Application of the AFC Statutes and Standing Orders of the congress of the AFC;
    - v) other proposals submitted by the Executive Committee members in accordance with these Statutes;
  - j) to appoint and dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President;
  - k) to relieve a person of their duties in accordance with Article 41.7 of these Statutes;
  - l) to provisionally dismiss a person or body or provisionally suspend a Member Association until the next Congress;

- m) to fix the membership subscriptions; and
  - n) to determine the official competitions to be organised and coordinated by the AFC and to decide the venue for such competitions in accordance with Article 74.
3. The powers and responsibilities of the Executive Committee may be defined in greater detail in the AFC Organisation Regulations.
  4. The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, delegate tasks arising out of its areas of authority to the President, other bodies of the AFC or third parties.

## **ARTICLE 34: MEETINGS AND DECISIONS**

1. The Executive Committee shall stipulate the terms of reference of the Executive Committee, standing orders for meetings and its ability to make decisions in the AFC Organisation Regulations.
2. The Executive Committee shall meet at least two (2) times a year.
3. The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Committee members request a meeting or if the President deems it necessary, the President shall convene it within twenty-one (21) days.

## **ARTICLE 35: DISMISSAL OF A PERSON OR BODY**

1. The Congress may dismiss a person or body. The Executive Committee may place the dismissal of a person or body on the agenda for the Congress. The Executive Committee may also dismiss a person or body provisionally until the following Congress. Any Executive Committee member may submit a proposal to place such a motion for dismissal on the agenda of the Executive Committee.
2. The motion for dismissal must be accompanied by written reasons. It will be sent to the Member Associations of the AFC along with the agenda.
3. The person or body in question has the right to speak in their own defense.
4. The Congress shall reach a decision by means of secret ballot. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is required.
5. The person or body dismissed (provisionally) must be relieved of their functions with immediate effect.

## **ARTICLE 36: EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

1. The Executive Committee shall stipulate the terms of reference of the Emergency Committee, standing orders for meetings and its ability to make decisions in the AFC Organisation Regulations.

2. The Emergency Committee shall deal with all matters requiring immediate settlement between meetings of the Executive Committee. The Emergency Committee shall consist of:
  - a) the President; and
  - b) the five (5) Vice Presidents.
3. The President shall convene the Emergency Committee meetings.
4. Decisions of the Emergency Committee shall have immediate effect. The President shall notify the Executive Committee immediately of the decisions passed by the Emergency Committee.

## ARTICLE 37: THE PRESIDENT

1. The President represents the AFC generally.
2. The President shall aim to foster a positive image of the AFC and to ensure that the AFC's mission, strategic direction, policies and values, as defined by the Executive Committee, are protected and advanced.
3. The President shall seek to maintain and develop good relations between and amongst Stakeholders.
4. The President chairs the Congress and the meetings of the Executive Committee and Emergency Committee. The President shall have one (1) ordinary vote on the Executive Committee and the Emergency Committee and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote.
5. The President shall be an ex officio member in all Standing Committees without the right to vote.
6. If the President is absent or unavailable, the Senior Vice President shall deputise.
7. The powers and responsibilities of the President may be defined in greater detail in the AFC Organisation Regulations.
8. The President may delegate tasks arising out of their areas of authority to the Executive Committee and to the General Secretariat.

## ARTICLE 38: CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE AFC PRESIDENT

1. The President shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four (4) years. The mandate shall begin after the end of the Congress which has elected him. A President may be re-elected subject to the provisions of Article 32.
2. Candidates for the position of President shall be valid only if nominated by at least three (3) Member Associations (but not necessarily the Member Association that they represent).

3. Candidates for the position of President shall have played an active role in Football (e.g. as a Player or an Official within FIFA, a Confederation or an Association) for two (2) of the last five (5) years before being proposed as a candidate.
4. Any Member Association that wishes to nominate a candidate for the position of President must submit the prescribed form to the General Secretariat not later than four (4) months before the date of the Congress. Each nomination must be in accordance with the further provisions contained within the AFC Electoral Code, the FIFA Statutes and any other FIFA regulations.
5. The General Secretariat shall notify the Member Associations of the names of proposed candidates for the office of the President by registered post or electronic mail at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress.
6. Once a person is elected as President, such person may no longer hold office in any Member Association.

## CHAPTER 4: THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

### ARTICLE 39: GENERAL SECRETARIAT

1. The General Secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of the AFC under the direction of the General Secretary.
2. The General Secretariat is supervised by, and is accountable to, the Executive Committee with regard to the discharge of its functions.
3. The powers and responsibilities of the General Secretariat may be defined in greater detail within the AFC Organisation Regulations.

### ARTICLE 40: THE GENERAL SECRETARY

1. The General Secretary shall be the Chief Executive of the General Secretariat and shall work under the direction of the Executive Committee.
2. The General Secretary shall be appointed and dismissed by the Executive Committee upon the proposal of the President. The General Secretary shall report to the Executive Committee.
3. The General Secretary must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Audit and Compliance Committee.
4. The General Secretary shall:
  - a) implement decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
  - b) be responsible for the administration of the General Secretariat;
  - c) be responsible for the appointment and discipline of all staff of the General Secretariat;
  - d) assist and participate in the Congress, Executive Committee and Committee meetings;
  - e) be responsible for the minutes of all meetings;
  - f) be responsible for all publications of the AFC;
  - g) be responsible for all correspondence of the AFC;
  - h) liaise with FIFA, Confederations and any other organisation in the promotion of the objectives of the AFC;
  - i) manage and keep the accounts of the AFC properly;

- j) propose appointments and dismissals of Directors to the President; and
  - k) sign decisions on behalf of any AFC Committee, provided that no other ruling exists in the relevant regulations.
5. Additional powers of the General Secretary, including the authority to represent the AFC, shall be provided for by the AFC Organisation Regulations.
  6. In the absence of the General Secretary, an Acting General Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.
  7. The General Secretary shall attend all Standing Committee meetings of the AFC as an ex officio official without the right to vote. In the event the General Secretary is unable to attend the Standing Committee meeting, the General Secretary shall appoint a representative(s) from the General Secretariat to attend on his behalf.
  8. The General Secretary shall not be a Delegate or a member of any body of the AFC.

## CHAPTER 5: THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE JUDICIAL BODIES

### ARTICLE 41: STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The Standing Committees of the AFC are the:
  - a) Finance Committee;
  - b) Audit and Compliance Committee;
  - c) Competitions Committee;
  - d) Technical Committee;
  - e) Referees Committee;
  - f) Women's Football Committee;
  - g) Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee;
  - h) Social Responsibility Committee;
  - i) Legal Committee;
  - j) Medical Committee;
  - k) Marketing Committee;
  - l) Development Committee;
  - m) Media and Communications Committee;
  - n) Associations Committee;
  - o) Organising Committee for AFC Asian Cup; and.
  - p) Professional Football Committee.
2. The Standing Committees shall report to the Executive Committee. They shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in their respective fields of function.
3. The standing orders for meetings of the Standing Committees, the conditions for making valid decisions, and other organisational and procedural matters relating to the Standing Committees are governed by the AFC Organisation Regulations.

4. The Chairpersons of the Audit and Compliance Committee and of the Medical Committee shall not belong to the Executive Committee.

In all other instances, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise on a case-by-case basis, only members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed as Chairpersons of the Standing Committees.

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

5. Members may be reappointed and may also be relieved of their duties at any time in accordance with these Statutes and the AFC Organisation Regulations. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy on a Standing Committee shall have the right to vote.
6. Any decisions and/or policies made by a Standing Committee must be either in accordance with a delegation from the Executive Committee or subsequently ratified by the Executive Committee, in order to take effect.
7. Any member of a Standing Committee who is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings or any five (5) meetings during their term without a properly accepted apology is automatically suspended. A decision shall then be made by the Executive Committee whether or not to dismiss the member, which shall be final.
8. Each Standing Committee may propose amendments to its terms of reference within the AFC Organisation Regulations to the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE 42: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee shall:

- a) determine the AFC's strategy regarding financial and asset management and advise the Executive Committee accordingly; and
- b) analyse the AFC budget and financial statements prepared by the General Secretary for submission to the Executive Committee.

Details on the Finance Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## **ARTICLE 43: AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

The Audit and Compliance Committee shall:

- a) ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting;
- b) review the independent external auditors' report at the request of the Executive Committee; and



- c) assess and provide recommendations on the AFC's internal control systems and risk management policies.

Candidates for the Audit and Compliance Committee must pass an eligibility check (to be carried out by the AFC General Secretariat and approved by the Executive Committee) before they are appointed by the Executive Committee.

Details on the Audit and Compliance Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## **ARTICLE 44: COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE**

The Competitions Committee shall advise the Executive Committee on strategies and policies related to the competitions and matches in accordance with these Statutes and all relevant regulations.

Details on the Competitions Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## **ARTICLE 45: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

The Technical Committee shall be responsible for continuing educational aspects of the game of Football.

Details on the Technical Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## **ARTICLE 46: REFEREES COMMITTEE**

The Referees Committee shall ensure the correct application of the Laws of the Game and may propose amendments to the Laws of the Game to the Executive Committee for recommendation to The IFAB. It shall approve the appointment of all match officials and video match officials (where appropriate) for Football, futsal and beach soccer competitions organised by the AFC.

Details on the Referees Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## **ARTICLE 47: WOMEN'S FOOTBALL COMMITTEE**

The Women's Football Committee shall advise the Executive Committee on strategies and policies related to women's football in accordance with these Statutes and all relevant regulations.

Details on the Women's Football Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## **ARTICLE 48: FUTSAL AND BEACH SOCCER COMMITTEE**

The Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee shall advise the Executive Committee on strategies and policies related to Futsal and Beach Soccer in accordance with these Statutes and all relevant regulations.

Details on the Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## **ARTICLE 49: SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE**

The Social Responsibility Committee shall ensure that the AFC's social responsibilities are discharged in a manner consistent with the AFC's policies and objectives, and that the AFC is the source of unity to the football family in Asia.

Details on the Social Responsibility Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## **ARTICLE 50: LEGAL COMMITTEE**

The Legal Committee shall assist and advise the Executive Committee, the Congress, the General Secretary or other AFC bodies on any legal matter involving the AFC.

Details on the Legal Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## **ARTICLE 51: MEDICAL COMMITTEE**

The Medical Committee shall deal with all medical aspects of Football, including without limitation anti-doping matters.

Details on the Medical Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## **ARTICLE 52: MARKETING COMMITTEE**

The Marketing Committee shall advise the Executive Committee on the AFC marketing strategies and policies.

Details on the Marketing Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## **ARTICLE 53: DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Development Committee shall be responsible for and supervise the implementation of AFC development programmes and propose appropriate strategies.

Details on the Development Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## ARTICLE 54: MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Media and Communications Committee shall be responsible for the AFC media and communication strategies.

Details on the Media and Communications Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and relevant regulations.

## ARTICLE 55: ASSOCIATIONS COMMITTEE

The Associations Committee shall be responsible for relations between the AFC and its Member Associations as well as Member Association's compliance with FIFA and AFC Statutes.

Details on the Associations Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and all relevant regulations.

## ARTICLE 56: ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR AFC ASIAN CUP

The Organising Committee for AFC Asian Cup shall advise the Executive Committee on strategies and policies related to the AFC Asian Cup in accordance with these Statutes and all relevant regulations.

Details on the Organising Committee for AFC Asian Cup Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and all relevant regulations.

## ARTICLE 57: PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL COMMITTEE

The Professional Football Committee shall advise the Executive Committee on strategies and policies related to the development of professional Football in Asia (including, without limitation, matters relating to club licensing, club eligibility and club financial sustainability).

Details on the Professional Football Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the AFC Organisation Regulations and all relevant regulations.

## ARTICLE 58: JUDICIAL BODIES

1. The judicial bodies of the AFC are:
  - a) the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee;
  - b) the Appeal Committee; and
  - c) the Entry Control Body.
2. The responsibilities and functions of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee shall be stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
3. The responsibilities and functions of the Entry Control Body shall be stipulated in the Procedural Rules Governing the AFC Entry Control Body.

4. The decision-making powers of other committees remain unaffected. The members of the judicial bodies shall not belong to any other body of the AFC at the same time.
5. Candidates for the judicial bodies must pass an eligibility check (to be carried out by the AFC General Secretariat and approved by the Executive Committee) in order to be eligible for election.

## **ARTICLE 59: DISCIPLINARY AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

1. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and the number of members deemed necessary by the Executive Committee for the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee to function properly. The Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson shall have legal qualifications. The members shall have legal qualifications or related experience.
2. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code on all parties set out in these Statutes and the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
3. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may propose amendments to the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code directly to the Executive Committee. The Legal Committee shall be promptly notified of such proposed amendments.
4. These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and the Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of a Member Association.

## **ARTICLE 60: APPEAL COMMITTEE**

1. The Appeal Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and the number of members deemed necessary by the Executive Committee for the Appeal Committee to function properly. The Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson shall have legal qualifications. The members shall have legal qualifications or related experience.
2. The Appeal Committee shall have jurisdiction to hear appeals arising from decisions of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee that are not declared final pursuant to the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## **ARTICLE 61: ENTRY CONTROL BODY**

1. The Entry Control Body shall consist of a Chairperson and four (4) Deputy Chairpersons. The Chairperson shall have legal qualifications. The other members shall have legal qualifications or related experience.
2. The Entry Control Body shall have jurisdiction to determine the eligibility of Clubs to participate in AFC club competitions as set out in the Procedural Rules Governing the AFC Entry Control Body.

## ARTICLE 62: SANCTIONS

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

- a) for individuals:
  - i) warning;
  - ii) fine;
  - iii) caution;
  - iv) expulsion;
  - v) suspension for a specific number of Matches or for a specific period of time;
  - vi) ban from team dressing room and/or team bench;
  - vii) ban from entering a stadium;
  - viii) ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
  - ix) withdrawal of a title or award;
  - x) confiscation; and
  - xi) social work.
- b) for Member Associations and Clubs:
  - i) warning;
  - ii) fine;
  - iii) full or partial Stadium closure;
  - iv) order to play a match on neutral territory;
  - v) ban on playing in a particular Stadium;
  - vi) annulment of the result of the match;
  - vii) disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition;
  - viii) defeat by forfeit;
  - ix) deduction of points (for a current or future competition);

- x) relegation to a lower division;
- xi) order that a match be replayed;
- xii) withdrawal of a title and award;
- xiii) confiscation;
- xiv) withholding of revenues from an AFC competition;
- xv) prohibition on registering new players in AFC competition;
- xvi) restriction on the number of players that a Club may register for participation in AFC competition;
- xvii) withdrawal of a licence to participate in AFC competition; and
- xviii) social work.

## CHAPTER 6: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

### ARTICLE 63: COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)

1. The AFC recognises the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland) to resolve disputes between the AFC and the other Confederations, Member Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Players, Officials, Football Agents and licensed match agents.
2. The provisions of the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall apply to the proceedings.
3. The CAS shall apply the various regulations of the AFC, and additionally where relevant, the Laws of Malaysia.

### ARTICLE 64: DISPUTES

1. The Member Associations shall agree to recognise CAS as an independent judicial authority and to ensure that their members, affiliated Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials comply with the decisions passed by CAS. The same obligation shall apply to Intermediaries and licensed match agents.
2. Recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited unless specifically provided for in any FIFA or AFC Regulations. Recourse to ordinary courts of law for all types of provisional measures is also prohibited.
3. Any violation of this Article shall be sanctioned in accordance with these Statutes.

### ARTICLE 65: DISPUTES OF NATIONAL DIMENSION

1. Member Associations shall insert a clause in their statutes or regulations stipulating that it is prohibited to take disputes within the Member Association or disputes affecting Leagues, Clubs, members of Clubs, Players, Officials and other Member Association Officials to ordinary courts of law, unless FIFA regulations, AFC regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to ordinary courts of law.
2. Such disputes in the last instance shall be referred to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognised under the rules of the Member Association or to the CAS.
3. Member Associations shall ensure that the stipulation in Article 65.1 is implemented within the Member Association, if necessary, by imposing a binding obligation on its members. Member Associations shall impose sanctions on any party that fails to respect this obligation and ensure that any appeal against such sanctions shall likewise be strictly submitted to arbitration, and not to ordinary courts of law.

### ARTICLE 66: JURISDICTION OF CAS AS AN ORDINARY COURT OF ARBITRATION

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

- a) disputes between the AFC and its Member Associations, their Leagues, Clubs, Players and/or Officials; and
  - b) disputes of international dimension between Member Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Players and/or Officials.
2. CAS shall only intervene in its capacity as an ordinary court of arbitration if the dispute does not fall within the competence of an AFC body.

## **ARTICLE 67: JURISDICTION OF CAS AS AN APPEALS ARBITRATION BODY**

1. Any final decision made by an AFC body may be disputed exclusively before CAS in its capacity as an appeals arbitration body, to the exclusion of any ordinary court or any other court of arbitration.
2. Recourse may only be made to CAS after all other internal AFC channels have been exhausted. Appeals shall be lodged with CAS within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of the decision in question. The relevant AFC regulations may contain further stipulations or amend this time limit.
3. CAS does not deal with appeals arising from:
  - a) violations of the Laws of The Game;
  - b) suspensions of up to four (4) matches or up to three (3) months (with the exception of doping decisions);
  - c) decisions which any Regulations declare as final and binding and not appealable; or
  - d) decisions against which an appeal to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognised under the rules of a Member Association may be made.
4. The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect. The appropriate AFC bodies, or alternatively, CAS may order the appeal to have a suspensive effect.
5. Only parties directly affected by a decision may appeal to CAS.
6. Both FIFA and the World Anti-Doping Agency are entitled to appeal to CAS against any internally final and binding doping-related decision passed by the AFC.



## CHAPTER 7: MISCELLANEOUS

### ARTICLE 68: FINANCES

1. The financial period of the AFC shall be one (1) year and shall commence on 1 January of each year.
2. The revenue and expenses of the AFC shall be responsibly managed, including, where appropriate, the creation of reserves.
3. The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of the AFC with its subsidiaries as of 31 December every year.

### ARTICLE 69: REVENUE

The revenue of the AFC arises specifically from:

- a) Member Associations' annual membership subscriptions;
- b) receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which the AFC is entitled;
- c) fines imposed by the authorised bodies; and
- d) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by the AFC.

### ARTICLE 70: EXPENSES

The AFC bears:

- a) the expenses stipulated in the budget;
- b) other expenses approved by the Congress and expenses that the Executive Committee is entitled to incur within the scope of its authority; and
- c) all other expenses in keeping with the objectives pursued by the AFC.

### ARTICLE 71: EXTERNAL AUDITORS

1. The Audit and Compliance Committee shall recommend a firm of independent external auditors for a term of four (4) years for approval by the Congress. The external auditors' mandate(s) may be renewed.
2. The independent external auditors shall examine and certify the accounts before the same is presented to the Executive Committee and the Congress.
3. The independent external auditors' report shall be submitted to the Executive Committee, Congress and the Audit and Compliance Committee.

## **ARTICLE 72: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION**

1. Each Member Association shall pay a standard annual subscription due by 1 January of each calendar year. The annual subscription for new Member Associations, including “Associate” members, for the year in question shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the close of the Congress at which they were admitted.
2. The Executive Committee shall fix the amount of the annual subscription every two (2) years. It shall be the same for every Member Association and amount to no more than five hundred (500) US Dollars.

## **ARTICLE 73: SETTLEMENT**

The AFC may debit any Member Association’s accounts to settle claims and shall provide notice of such action to the affected Member Association.

## **ARTICLE 74: COMPETITIONS**

1. The AFC shall have the sole jurisdiction to organise or sanction international competitions in Asia in which Member Associations and/or their Clubs participate. FIFA competitions shall not be affected by this Article.
2. The Executive Committee shall determine the official competitions to be organised and coordinated by the AFC (which may include Football esports competitions). The Executive Committee shall decide the venue for the final competitions organised by the AFC, with the sole exception of the venue of the final competition of the AFC Asian Cup, which shall be decided by the Congress as follows:
  - a) based on specific regulations to be issued by the Executive Committee, the General Secretariat shall establish a fair and transparent bidding procedure, inviting all qualified Member Associations to submit a bid and defining in detail the requirements for the bidding and hosting as well as criteria for selecting the host of the event;
  - b) based on its best judgment, the General Secretariat shall submit to the Executive Committee a report evaluating the compliance of all bids with the bidding procedure and the requirements for hosting the event and its recommendations in respect of the same, taking into consideration the defined criteria for selecting the host;
  - c) the Executive Committee shall review the report and recommendations, and designate, based on its final judgment and in an open ballot, up to two (2) bids to be submitted to the Congress for a final decision. The result of each ballot shall be made public; and
  - d) the Congress shall select the host venue from the bids designated by the Executive Committee. A simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is necessary. In circumstances where only one (1) bid is submitted to the Congress, such bid may be selected by acclamation.

3. The Executive Committee may delegate to Member Associations the authority to organise competitions.
4. The Executive Committee shall set up regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of AFC competitions.
5. By the act of entering its team to a competition organised by the AFC, each Member Association and/or Club affiliated to a Member Association agrees to comply with the Statutes, Rules and Regulations, Directives and Decisions of FIFA and the AFC and their bodies.
6. The admission to an AFC competition of a Member Association or Club directly or indirectly involved in any activity aimed at arranging or influencing the outcome of a match at national or international level can be refused with immediate effect, without prejudice to any possible disciplinary measures.

## ARTICLE 75: CLUB LICENSING

The Executive Committee shall define a club licensing system governing:

- a) the minimum criteria to be fulfilled by clubs in order to be admitted to AFC competitions;
- b) the licensing process (including the minimum requirements for the licensing bodies); and
- c) the minimum requirements to be observed by the licensors.

## ARTICLE 76: RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

1. The AFC and its Member Associations are respectively the original owners of all of the 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, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.
2. The Executive Committee shall decide how and to what extent the AFC rights are utilised and draw up special regulations pertaining to this. The Executive Committee shall alone decide whether the AFC rights shall be utilised exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.

## ARTICLE 77: AUTHORISATION

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

## **ARTICLE 78: INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS**

1. The authorisation and organisation of international matches and competitions between Football Association teams and between Leagues and/or Club teams in Asia shall be in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, AFC Statutes and any relevant FIFA or AFC Regulations.
2. The Executive Committee shall compile an AFC Competitions Calendar that shall be binding upon Member Associations and Leagues.
3. The AFC is bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

## **ARTICLE 79: APPROVAL**

Member Associations cannot belong to another Confederation or participate in competitions on the territory of another Confederation without the authorisation of the AFC, the other Confederation and FIFA.

## **ARTICLE 80: MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

The Executive Committee shall have the final decision on any matter not provided for in these Statutes or in cases of force majeure.

## **ARTICLE 81: DISSOLUTION**

1. The AFC may be dissolved by a resolution to that effect passed by not less than three-quarters (3/4) of the Member Associations eligible to vote.
2. Upon the dissolution of the AFC, all its funds and assets shall be entrusted to the appropriate authority of the country of the General Secretariat until such time the AFC is re-established.

## **ARTICLE 82: ADMINISTRATION OF PROPERTY**

1. The immovable property of the AFC shall be registered in the name of the AFC. The Executive Committee shall appoint three (3) officers comprising of the President, one of the Vice Presidents and the General Secretary, as the Property Administration Officers pursuant to section 9(b) of the Societies Act 1966, whose appointments are authenticated by a certificate of the Registrar of Societies. They will serve in the capacity for the duration of their term of office. They will automatically cease to hold that position when their term of office ends.
2. They are not empowered to sell, mortgage or transfer the property of the AFC unless given the authority to do so by Congress.
3. In the event that a post falls vacant, the Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt any other member of the AFC to fill the vacancy until the next Congress.

## ARTICLE 83: ADOPTION OF STATUTES

These Statutes were adopted by the AFC Ordinary Congress on 12 April 2025. They supersede all previous texts and come into force in accordance with Article 31 of these Statutes.

On behalf of the AFC Ordinary Congress 2025:

**Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa**  
*President*

**Datuk Seri Windsor John**  
*General Secretary*

## TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

1. Any person taking up a position under Article 32.1(f) of these Statutes following the AFC Congress in 2023 shall only hold such position for the remaining term 2023 – 2027. For the avoidance of doubt, no person taking up a position under Article 32.1(f) of these Statutes shall be elected by a Regional Association for a term beyond the 2023 – 2027 term.
2. The requirements of Articles 43 and 58.5 of these Statutes shall not apply to existing members for the 2023 – 2027 term.

# REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE AFC STATUTES

## ARTICLE 1: ISSUANCE AND AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS

1. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to issue and amend, without limitation, the following Regulations:
  - a) AFC Organisation Regulations;
  - b) AFC Electoral Code;
  - c) AFC Anti-Doping Regulations;
  - d) AFC Regulations Governing International Matches;
  - e) AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code;
  - f) AFC Regulations Governing the Admission of Football Associations;
  - g) AFC Club Licensing Regulations;
  - h) AFC Enhance Programme Regulations;
  - i) AFC Equipment Regulations;
  - j) AFC Stadium Regulations;
  - k) AFC Safety and Security Regulations;
  - l) AFC Development Regulations; and
  - m) any regulations relating to Competitions, including but not limited to:
    - i) Competition Regulations;
    - ii) Commercial / Marketing Regulations; and
    - iii) Bidding Regulations.
2. Should the Executive Committee choose to issue these (and any other) regulations, they shall be made publicly available on the AFC website.

## ARTICLE 2: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Any person receiving remuneration by virtue of a contract from a Member Association or any of its Clubs shall not be entitled to accept work in return for remuneration with another Member Association at the same time.

## **ARTICLE 3: MATCH AGENTS**

1. The employment of match agents in the arrangement of matches shall be permitted.
2. Match agents who arrange matches which involve a team or teams from within the AFC must be officially recognised by FIFA.
3. Match agents who arrange matches between teams belonging to different Confederations must possess a FIFA agent's license.
4. The AFC shall be entitled to intervene to enforce the agreements concluded between match agents and teams with which they are contractually bound only in the following cases:
  - a) if the match or tournament at the source of the dispute involves teams from different Member Associations; and
  - b) if the match agent in question holds a FIFA licence.

## **ARTICLE 4: FOOTBALL AGENTS**

Players and clubs are entitled to engage the services of Football Agent(s) when concluding an employment contract and/or transfer agreement. Such services must be in compliance with the FIFA Football Agent Regulations.

## **ARTICLE 5: ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FOR ASSOCIATION TEAMS**

The eligibility to play for representative teams of Member Associations shall be governed in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes.

## **ARTICLE 6: PRINCIPLE OF PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

1. The entitlement of a Club to participate in a domestic league championship shall depend principally on sporting merit. A Club shall qualify to participate in a domestic league championship by remaining in a certain division or by being promoted or relegated to another at the end of a season.
2. In addition to qualification on sporting merit, the entitlement of a Club to participate in a domestic league championship may be subject to other criteria within the scope of a club licensing procedure, whereby the emphasis is on sporting, infrastructural, administrative, legal and financial considerations. Licensing decisions must be able to be examined by the Member Association's body of appeal.
3. Altering the legal form or company structure of a Club to facilitate its qualification on sporting merit and/or its receipt of a license for a domestic league championship, to the detriment of the integrity of a sports competition, is prohibited. This includes, for example, changing the headquarters, changing the name or transferring stake holdings between different Clubs. Prohibitive decisions must be able to be examined by the Member Association's body of appeal.



4. Each Member Association is responsible for deciding national issues, which shall not be delegated to the Leagues. The AFC is responsible for deciding issues involving more than one (1) Football Association within the AFC's territory. FIFA is responsible for deciding international issues involving more than one (1) Confederation.

## ARTICLE 7: AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

1. FIFA shall inform the Member Associations of any amendments and decisions regarding the Laws of The Game made by The IFAB within one (1) month of the ordinary annual meeting of The IFAB.
2. The Member Associations shall be obliged to enforce these amendments and decisions at the latest by 1 July after The IFAB's annual meeting. Exceptions may be granted to Member Associations whose football season is still in progress at the time of receipt of the notification.
3. The Member Associations shall be entitled to apply the amendments and decisions as soon as they have been issued by The IFAB.

## ARTICLE 8: NOMINATION OF REFEREES

1. Each referee and assistant referee appointed to an international match shall belong to a neutral Member Association unless otherwise previously agreed by the Member Associations concerned.
2. The referee and assistant referees chosen to officiate at an international match shall be a member of the official FIFA list of International Referees and Assistant Referees.

## ARTICLE 9: REFEREE REPORT

1. The referee of every international "A" match shall send a report within forty-eight (48) hours of the match to FIFA, the AFC and the Member Association on whose territory the match was played.
2. This report shall be made on the official form given to the referee by the Member Association under whose jurisdiction the match was played.
3. The report shall record all the disciplinary measures taken and the reasons for these measures.

## ARTICLE 10: REIMBURSEMENT

1. Referees and assistant referees at international matches shall be entitled to:
  - a) a daily allowance; and
  - b) reimbursement of travel expenses.

2. The AFC's internal financial regulations shall determine the amounts, travel category and number of days due for reimbursement to which the referees and assistant referees are entitled.
3. The amount owed to the referees and assistant referees shall be paid to them in convertible currency on the same day as the match by the organising Member Association.
4. The expenses for hotel, board and laundry incurred by referees and assistant referees of international matches shall be settled by the organising Member Association.

## **ARTICLE 11: MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

Any matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE 12: ENFORCEMENT**

These Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes were approved by the AFC Extraordinary Congress on 18 October 2023. They supersede all previous versions and come into force immediately.

On behalf of the AFC Extraordinary Congress 2023:

**Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa**  
*President*

**Datuk Seri Windsor John**  
*General Secretary*

# STANDING ORDERS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

## ARTICLE 1: CHAIRPERSON

1. The President of AFC shall chair the Congress. The Senior Vice President shall deputise in the absence of the President.
2. The President may designate the General Secretary to conduct the Congress on his behalf with his guidance and supervision. All final decision in accordance with Article 3 below shall only be made by the Chairperson.
3. The Chairperson shall:
  - a) be responsible for the strict application of the Standing Orders;
  - b) open and adjourn the sessions and debates;
  - c) permit Delegates to speak;
  - d) conduct the proceedings of the Congress;
  - e) maintain order at the Congress; and
  - f) impose disciplinary measures on the Delegates who interfere with the proceedings or are guilty of any misconduct.

## ARTICLE 2: DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

1. In conducting the business of the Congress, the Chairperson shall have the right to apply the following disciplinary measures:
  - a) a call to order;
  - b) censure; and/or
  - c) exclusion from one or more sessions.
2. In the case of an appeal, the Congress shall decide immediately and without debate.

## ARTICLE 3: APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS

1. The General Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes of the Congress. Stenographers may be employed to assist the General Secretary.
2. A number of scrutineers in accordance with Article 26 of the AFC Statutes shall be appointed at the beginning of the Congress to count the votes for and against whenever a vote is taken. The appointed scrutineers must be registered as Delegates, pursuant to Article 21 of the AFC Statutes, and shall not be exercising the right to vote on behalf of their Member Associations.

3. A number of members shall be appointed in accordance with Article 26 of the AFC Statutes to check the official minutes of the Congress. The appointed minutes checkers must be registered as Delegates, pursuant to Article 21 of the AFC Statutes, and shall not be exercising the right to vote on behalf of their Member Associations.
4. Official interpreters shall be appointed to make the translations into the official languages of the Congress.

## **ARTICLE 4: ORDER OF PROCEDURES**

1. Each discussion on the items on the agenda shall be preceded with a statement:
  - a) by the Chairperson or the member designated by the Executive Committee for this purpose; and/or
  - b) by the representative of a Committee specially appointed to make a report; and/or
  - c) by the representative of a Member Association responsible for the inclusion of the same in the Agenda.
2. The general discussion shall then be open to the Delegates.
3. The right to address the Congress shall be granted in the order in which it is requested. No speaker shall speak unless permission has been obtained. Speakers shall speak from their designated places and the rest shall remain seated.
4. No permission shall be granted to any member to speak a second time unless all those who have obtained permission to speak have done so.

## **ARTICLE 5: PROPOSALS AND MOTIONS**

1. All proposals and amendments shall be submitted in writing. Proposals which are not relevant to the subject under discussion shall be withdrawn from the debate.
2. If a motion for adjournment is proposed, all discussions shall be suspended until a vote has been taken on the motion.
3. A proposal to close the discussion shall be put to vote without debate. If the motion is approved, permission to speak shall be granted only to those members who have requested to do so before the vote was taken.
4. The Chairperson shall close the discussion unless the Congress decides otherwise by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote.

## ARTICLE 6: VOTING

1. No vote can be taken by secret ballot except as provided for otherwise in the Statutes. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted. All proposals may be decided either by a show of hands, the use of electronic equipment, by a roll call or by acclamation as provided for in these statutes. No one shall be compelled to vote.
2. When a Congress is held by teleconference, by videoconference or by any other means of communication, each vote shall be taken by calling the roll in English alphabetical order or by means of online voting. The AFC General Secretariat may issue online voting guidelines.
3. All proposals without objections shall be adopted.
4. All proposals shall be put to vote in the order in which they are submitted. Every voting Member Association shall have only one proposal.
5. Before each vote, the Chairperson or the person designated by him for the purpose shall read aloud the text of the proposal before voting and explain the voting procedure to the Congress.
6. Voting cards shall be visibly held when voting is by a show of hands.
7. Alterations to amendments shall be put to the vote before the amendments proper, and amendments before the main proposal.
8. The Chairperson shall verify and announce the results of the voting to the Congress.
9. Silence shall be strictly observed during voting and until the result has been announced by the Chairperson. No one may obtain permission to speak during voting and until the result has been announced.

## ARTICLE 7: ELECTIONS

1. Elections shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the AFC Electoral Code.
2. The General Secretary shall keep in the General Secretariat all documents required to be archived pursuant to the AFC Electoral Code for a period of one hundred (100) days after the end of the Congress, or such later time as directed by the Executive Committee, at which point they shall be destroyed.

## ARTICLE 8: MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

1. All matters not provided for in the Standing Orders not relating to elections shall be resolved by the Executive Committee unless decided otherwise by the Congress.
2. All matters not provided for in the Standing Orders relating to elections shall be resolved in accordance with the AFC Electoral Code.

## ARTICLE 9: ENFORCEMENT

The Standing Orders of the Congress were approved by the AFC Extraordinary Congress on 18 October 2023. They supersede all previous Standing Orders and come into force immediately.

On behalf of the AFC Extraordinary Congress 2023.

**Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa**  
*President*

**Datuk Seri Windsor John**  
*General Secretary*





AFC House, Jalan 1/155B,  
Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
T: +603 8994 3388

**the – AFC.com**