

Chinese Football Association Statutes

(August 2019 Edition)

Definitions

FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

AFC: Asian Football Confederation.

CFA: Chinese Football Association.

Confederation: the collective organization of associations belonging to the same continent or geographical region and recognized by FIFA.

National (Regional) Association: a football association recognized by FIFA. Unless expressly stated otherwise, a national (regional) association is a member of FIFA and AFC.

IFAB: the International Football Association Board, which is responsible for ratifying and modifying the Laws of the Game.

Congress: the supreme body of CFA.

Executive Committee: the executive body of the Congress of CFA.

Extraordinary Congress: the Congress provisionally convened when necessary upon the proposal of the Executive Committee to perform special responsibilities.

Member: local football association, football association of industries and other organizations that have been admitted into membership of CFA upon approval of the Congress.

Club: organizations with an independent legal personality, registered with CFA and abiding by the Statutes, regulations, rules and decisions of FIFA, AFC, CFA and the member associations to which it is affiliated, and participated in the competitions organized by CFA.

Official: managerial personnel, committee members, referees, assistant referees, coaches, trainers and others (excluding players) that are responsible for competitions, technical, medical, media, marketing and administrative matters of CFA, or its members or clubs.

Player: any player registered with CFA and/or its members.

Natural person: football participants under the jurisdiction of CFA.

Legal person: football organization that has an independent legal personality under the jurisdiction of CFA.

Court of Arbitration for Sport: the International Court of Arbitration for Sport located in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Chapter I General Principles

Article 1 Name and domicile

(I) The official Chinese name of the Association is: 中国足球协会, abbreviated as 中国足协. Its English name is Chinese Football Association, abbreviated as CFA.

(II) CFA is headquartered in Beijing.

(III) The abbreviation, flag and emblem of CFA are filed with the national social

organization registration and administration authority.

Article 2 Basis

These Statutes are formulated in accordance with the General Rules of the Civil Law of the People's Republic of China, Law of the People's Republic of China on Physical Culture and Sports, Regulations on the Registration of Social Organizations, FIFA Statutes and AFC Statutes.

Article 3 Nature

(I) CFA is a national non-profit sports association voluntarily formed by organizations of the People's Republic of China that are engaged in football. It is the sole legal organization to represent China in international football, and the sole member that represents China in FIFA and AFC.

(II) CFA is a social organization of public benefit feature that unites nationwide football organizations and individuals to promote the development of football and administers nationwide football affairs under authorization of laws and delegation of the government.

(III) CFA is a Member of All China Sports Federation and Chinese Olympic Committee, and complies with the Statutes and relevant provisions thereof. It receives operational guidance and supervision from the industry administration department and registration authority.

Article 4 Tenet, scope of work and obligations

(I) Tenet

1. To lead a loyal, clean, responsible, and self-disciplined CFA team with an emphasis

on integrity and honesty.

2. To fully implement the Chinese Football Reform and Development Plan, promote football to a wide public both at grassroots level and elite level, and help with people's all-round development and social progress.

3. To promote fair play and good sporting ethics and make full use of the educational and social value of football.

4. To improve the management and operational mechanism of Chinese football and explore a development path with Chinese characteristics.

5. To consolidate the foundation for football development and unite all practitioners of the football industry to develop football.

6. To integrate resources and make full use of the market mechanism, and to create a fair competition environment.

7. To participate in the competitions and events of FIFA and AFC, promote international exchanges and cooperation, and enhance the friendship of football associations, clubs and players.

8. To enhance the communication and exchanges among member associations, clubs and football participants, serve its members, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of its members, and assist their development.

9. To promote and protect the integrity of football, and to prevent all methods and practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardize the integrity of football.

(II) Scope of work

1. To be responsible for football administration in an all-round way; study and formulate the policies, plans and industrial standards for football development.
2. To guide and promote the work of member associations, enhance the support to member associations, continue to grow in capability, and form a well-structured, efficient, cooperative, modern national football management system.
3. To manage all national football competitions, formulate and implement competition rules and regulations.
4. To be responsible for the training of football professionals and build up a theoretical system for football technical development.
5. To popularize and promote grassroots football and increase football population.
6. To build up a youth talent training system; and promote school football.
7. To promote the healthy and steady development of clubs, and regulate the management of professional football clubs with rigorous club licensing regulations, and let clubs play a dominant role in professional leagues.
8. To manage the national teams at all levels. To promote unity and solidarity, and build national teams with good performance and sporting ethics.
9. To cultivate football culture and promote the development of football industry; formulate the standards for football infrastructure and equipment.
10. To carry out international and regional exchanges and technical cooperation and to make full use of the bridging role to engage all walks of life.
11. To cooperate with its member associations and supervise the international matches of all levels played within the area under its jurisdiction in accordance with

the CFA Statutes.

12. To supervise and penalize behaviors that are contrary to FIFA, AFC and CFA Statutes, the Laws of the Game and other regulations and any behaviors that may harm the integrity of football.

If the matters above are subject to approval pursuant to any law or administrative regulations, approval shall be obtained according to the law.

(III) Obligations

CFA and its members, including football clubs, players and officials, promise to perform the following obligations:

1. To abide by the Constitution, laws, regulations and national policies of China and, follow the core social values and moral guidelines.
2. To abide by FIFA and AFC Statutes as well as related rules and regulations.
3. To recognize and abide by the Laws of the Game formulated and revised by IFAB.
4. To observe the principles of fair play and sport spirits.
5. To obey the final decisions made by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, FIFA and AFC.

Article 5 Non-discrimination

(I) CFA is against any kind of discrimination.

(II) CFA members shall not discriminate against any countries, regions, member associations or individuals for their race, gender, religion, language, political affiliation and other factors. Members who have committed such a violation will face suspension or expulsion of membership.

Article 6 Player

(I) CFA formulates rules on player's status and transfer according to FIFA regulations, and manage accordingly.

(II) Players shall register according to CFA regulations.

Article 7 Laws of the Game

(I) CFA and its members are governed by the effective Laws of the Game of IFAB.

(II) CFA and its members are governed by the effective Futsal Laws of the Game and Beach Soccer Laws of the Game of FIFA.

Article 8 Code of conduct

All the organizations and staff of CFA shall abide by FIFA, AFC and CFA Statutes and Code of Ethics.

Article 9 Language

(I) The official working language of CFA is Chinese.

(II) English is used for international and regional affairs.

(III) The Chinese version shall prevail for CFA Statutes and all official documents of CFA.

Chapter II Membership

Article 10 Admission, suspension, cancellation of membership, and expulsion

(I) The Congress shall decide whether to admit, suspend, remove or expel a member.

(II) Admission to CFA depends on whether the applicant is qualified in accordance

with the CFA Statutes and is willing to join and be abided by CFA Statutes.

(III) A member who is suspended, canceled or expelled can make an appeal.

(IV) The withdrawal, suspension or cancellation of membership deprives of all the rights as a member, but they shall not be exempted from economic liabilities to CFA or members of CFA.

Article 11 Admission

(I) Members of CFA shall be from across the country and all walks of life.

The following organizations can apply for membership:

1. football associations of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government.
2. football associations of an area or a city.
3. football associations of an industry.
4. youth football organizations.
5. women's football organizations.
6. football leagues.
7. other organizations to be admitted upon approval of the Congress.

(II) The following documents shall be submitted for admission:

1. Application letter. The application letter shall include the following provisions:

(1) To comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of CFA, FIFA and AFC and perform its duties as a member.

(2) To be governed by CFA Arbitration Committee and recognize the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

(3) Not to bring the disputes within the scope specified by the Statutes of CFA, FIFA and AFC to the civil courts, except those specified otherwise.

2. Legally valid statutes and various regulations.

3. Name list of responsible persons.

4. Documents that proving its legitimacy and legal personality.

5. Organizational structure and the details about facilities and football organizations under its jurisdiction.

(III) The membership subscriptions shall be paid for the current year within thirty (30) days after admission.

Article 12 Procedure for admission

(I) After receipt of application, the Executive Committee shall review the candidature according to CFA provisions on admission of membership then submit to the Congress for approval.

(II) The Congress shall make the final decision on the Executive Committee's advice. If the Executive Committee rejects the application, the candidate shall have the right to explain its application to the Congress.

(III) Upon approval of the Congress, the candidate shall be granted the membership of CFA and awarded a member certificate, and the notice of admission shall be published.

Article 13 Member associations' rights

(I) To take part in the Congress.

(II) To participate in and cast their votes at CFA elections in accordance with CFA

Regulations.

(III) To nominate candidates for the Executive Committee and other committees.

(IV) To take part in the competitions and events organized by CFA.

(V) To have priority to gain access to CFA's official information and services.

(VI) To participate in the assistance and development programs of CFA.

(VII) To provide opinions and suggestions to the work of CFA.

(VIII) To recommend possible candidates for membership admission.

(IX) To join or resign voluntarily.

(X) To exercise all other rights arising from these Statutes and other regulations.

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

Article 14 Member associations' obligations

(I) To comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of CFA , and to actively take part in the competitions and events organized by CFA and safeguard the rights and interests of CFA.

Within the areas under their jurisdiction, the member associations shall carry out football development and shoulder responsibilities independently according to CFA Statutes and other regulations and development plans:

1. To popularize football and increase football population.
2. To be responsible for registration and management of its members within the area under its jurisdiction, and strengthen the education of football professionals.
3. To be responsible for registration, management, supervision and impose sanction

of professional clubs, amateur clubs and football participants within the area under its jurisdiction.

4. To promote youth and women's football and work together with the educational departments to promote school football.

5. To protect the rights and interests of the clubs, and provide support on organizational building.

(II) To comply fully with the Laws of the Game and expressly state in its Statutes that the members shall respect fair play and good sporting ethics.

(III) To recognize the jurisdiction of the Arbitration Committee of CFA and the dispute resolution bodies of FIFA over the disputes within the industry, and specify them in its Statutes.

(IV) To report the amendments to its Statutes and changes to the persons in charge to CFA.

(V) To refrain from taking part in or organize any international friendly matches without the prior approval of CFA. To refrain from engaging in any football activities with any suspended members or football organizations not recognized by CFA without the prior approval of CFA. To refrain from taking part in official games with suspended or expelled members or with organizations or individuals which are not a member of CFA.

(VI) To complete the tasks assigned by CFA, report work to CFA and provide related documents.

(VII) To register and pay their membership subscriptions according to CFA

regulations.

(VIII) To undertake the member association obligations in accordance with the Statutes of CFA, FIFA, and AFC.

Any member that fails to fulfill the above obligations is subject to disciplinary sanctions according to CFA regulations.

Article 15 Suspension

(I) In the following circumstances, the Congress may suspend a member and the Executive Committee may temporarily suspend a member:

1. The member does not participate in CFA activities for two (2) consecutive years.
2. The member does not make annual registration with CFA in a timely manner.
3. The member fails to pay membership subscriptions and other payables to CFA.
4. The member has seriously violated the CFA Statutes and related regulations and refused to make corrections after being notified.

(II) In urgent cases, the Executive Committee may temporarily suspend a member with immediate effect. If the Executive Committee does not release the suspension, it shall be in effect until the next Congress.

(III) The temporary suspension of a member by the Executive Committee shall be confirmed by a simple (1/2) majority of the members present and eligible to vote at the Congress. If it is not confirmed, such suspension shall be automatically lifted.

(IV) The suspension shall last two (2) years at most. A suspended member may not exercise any of its membership rights. Other members may not take part in official competitions with the representative teams of a suspended member.

Article 16 Cancellation

(I) The Congress may cancel the membership of a suspended member if it fails to correct its behaviors during the suspension period.

(II) The cancellation of membership shall be proposed by the Executive Committee and be put on the agenda of the Congress.

(III) The cancellation shall be confirmed by a three-quarter (3/4) majority of the members present and eligible to vote at the Congress.

Article 17 Expulsion

(I) The Congress may expel a member if it has seriously violated the Statutes of CFA, FIFA and AFC.

(II) The procedure for expulsion is the same as for cancellation.

Article 18 Resignation

(I) A member intends to resign from CFA shall clear its financial obligations with CFA and other CFA members. A written notice shall be submitted to CFA at least six (6) months in advance.

(II) A member who fails to register with CFA in a timely manner or is canceled registration shall be deemed as automatic resignation.

Article 19 Provincial (municipal) football associations, leagues, clubs and other football organizations

CFA exercises supervision to the football associations, leagues, clubs and other football organizations within the area of CFA members but are not CFA members themselves in the aspects of their rules and regulations, licensing check, disciplines

and arbitration, and decisions over important issues.

(I) The above-mentioned organizations shall:

1. Carry out work according to the rights, obligations and work scope specified in CFA Statutes.

2. Acknowledge that CFA has the sole authority to organize the highest available level of national football competitions within its jurisdiction.

(II) The above-mentioned organizations shall independently and lawfully carry out football activities and not to be restricted by any external forces.

(III) Associated relationship is forbidden. A natural or legal person (including corporate shareholders and its subsidiaries) shall not exercise control over two (2) or more clubs or football organizations at the same time.

Chapter III Organizational Structure

Section 1 Congress

Article 20 The Congress is the supreme body of CFA, with the following rights:

(I) Formulate and revise CFA Statutes.

(II) Elect and dismiss CFA President, Vice President and Executive Committee members.

(III) Review work reports.

(IV) Review the medium and long term development plans and specialized report.

(V) Review the financial report of the previous year and the financial plan and budget for the next year.

(VI) Designate an independent auditor in accordance with the suggestions of the Executive Committee to carry out financial audit for CFA.

(VII) Decide the amount for membership subscription.

(VIII) Admission, suspension, cancellation and expulsion of membership.

(IX) Decide the establishment, change and termination of the branches, offices and other subsidiaries of CFA.

(X) Decide the appointment of the head of the legal bodies of CFA.

(XI) Decide the renaming and termination of CFA.

(XII) Decide other important matters.

Article 21 Congress

(I) The term of the Congress is four (4) years. The Congress shall be convened regularly, at least once a year. The members shall send delegates to attend the Congress.

(II) The President shall conduct the Congress business in accordance with the procedures. In case of the absence of the CFA President, a Vice President designated by the President or an Executive Committee member recommended by the Executive Committee shall conduct the Congress business.

Article 22 Right to vote at the Congress

(I) Each CFA member has one (1) vote.

(II) The member shall designate a delegate to cast the vote. The members shall notify the Secretariat the names of their delegates in writing at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the Congress.

(III) Only the members present are entitled to vote. Voting by letter or by proxy is not permitted.

(IV) The members of the Executive Committee and the persons holding honorary titles of CFA may take part in the Congress as observers without a right to vote.

(V) Professional football clubs may take part in the Congress as observers without a right to vote.

Article 23 The Convocation of a Congress

(I) The convocation shall be made by the Executive Committee.

(II) The Executive Committee shall fix the place, date and major topics of the Congress, and the members shall be notified in writing at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date of such Congress. If the notifying date is less than thirty (30) days in advance under special circumstances, the Executive Committee shall explain the reasons.

(III) The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the Congress, including the agenda and other relevant documents.

Article 24 Proposals

(I) The CFA members and Executive Committee members may submit their proposals to the Congress. The proposal shall be submitted to the Secretariat in writing at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the Congress.

(II) The Executive Committee shall decide whether to include the proposals in the agenda of the Congress.

Article 25 Quorum of a Congress

(I) The convening of the Congress demands the attendance of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members.

(II) If the presence is less than the quorum, the Congress shall reconvene within two (2) days, and the agenda shall remain unchanged. If the quorum is still not fulfilled on the second date, the Congress will be convened given that it shall be attended by more than half (1/2) of the members.

Article 26 Decisions of a Congress

(I) Unless otherwise specified, a simple majority (more than 50%) vote is required for the approval of a decision made by the Congress.

(II) Voting can be conducted by secret ballot or by showing of hands.

Article 27 Election

(I) CFA election shall be held in accordance with the CFA Election Regulations and conducted by secret ballot.

(II) The elections are held in the following methods:

1. In terms of the selection of President, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is necessary. If there are more than two (2) candidates for the election of the President, whoever obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated until only two candidates are left.

2. In terms of the election of Vice Presidents and Executive Committee members, the

candidate with the most votes wins, and a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is necessary.

Article 28 Dismissal

(I) CFA members may submit a proposal to dismiss a CFA official from his or her post. The proposal shall be included in the Congress agenda upon approval of the Executive Committee, and the Congress shall make a decision of such proposal.

(II) The person to be dismissed has the right to defend and appeal.

(III) The voting shall be carried out by secret ballot, and a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is necessary.

(IV) The dismissal proposal takes immediate effect upon validation, and the person is dismissed from his or her post.

Article 29 Amendments to the CFA Statutes

(I) The proposal for an amendment to the CFA Statutes may be submitted by the Executive Committee or by over five (5) CFA members in a joint request. The proposal must be submitted to the Secretariat in writing with an explanation.

(II) The proposal for an amendment to the CFA Statutes shall be submitted to the Congress by the Executive Committee for deliberation and review.

(III) A proposal to amend the CFA Statutes shall be adopted if approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and eligible to vote.

(IV) The amendments to the CFA Statutes shall comply with relevant laws and regulations of China.

Article 30 Extraordinary Congress

An Extraordinary Congress shall be convened within three (3) months upon receipt of a written request from over one third (1/3) of CFA members, or when the Executive Committee deems it necessary. The written request shall specify the topics for the agenda.

(II) The members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the Extraordinary Congress. If the notifying date is less than fifteen (15) days in advance under special circumstances, the Executive Committee shall explain the reasons.

(III) Only items included in the agenda shall be discussed at an Extraordinary Congress.

Article 31 Congress Agenda

(I) The Congress agenda shall include the following items:

1. Roll call;
2. An address by the CFA President;
3. The approval of the Congress agenda;
4. The appointment of scrutineers;
5. Consideration of the proposals for amendments to the CFA Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the CFA Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress;
6. Election or dismissal of CFA President, Vice Presidents and Executive Committee members;
7. The submission for approval of the work report;

8. The submission for approval of the development plan or specialized work report;
9. The submission for approval of the financial report of the previous year and the financial plan and budget for the next year;
10. The matter of the membership subscription;
11. The admission, suspension, cancellation and expulsion of membership;
12. The termination of CFA.
13. Other matters.

The above-mentioned items 5 to 13 of the agenda are subject to the topics of the Congress.

(II) The motion to amend the agenda of the Congress must be adopted by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the members present and eligible to vote.

(III) Only items included in the agenda shall be discussed at the Congress.

Article 32 Minutes of a Congress

The Secretariat shall be responsible for the minutes of the Congress.

Article 33 Effective date

Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect immediately unless otherwise specified.

Section 2 Executive Committee

Article 34 The Executive Committee is the executive body of the Congress.

It leads the work of the CFA and is accountable to the Congress in accordance with

the CFA Statutes and the Rules of the CFA Executive Committee when the Congress is not in session.

The term of the Executive Committee is four (4) years. If the election is postponed under special circumstances, the matter shall be discussed at and passed by the Congress, following the relevant laws and administrative regulations in China. However, the postponed election must be carried out within one (1) year from the date on which it is supposed to happen.

(I) The Executive Committee shall be broadly representative and highly professional. It shall consist of representatives from the sport administrative authorities, regional and industrial football associations and professional leagues, as well as renowned football professionals, public figures and experts. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of no more than thirty nine (39) members, including:

the President, the Vice Presidents and the members (including the General Secretary).

(II) In principle, there shall be no more than one (1) Executive Committee member from the same CFA member association. The rule does not apply to the renowned football professionals, public figures or experts.

(III) Members of the Executive Committee shall serve the term of four (4) years and are eligible for re-election. The starting and ending dates of the term shall be specified in the letter of appointment.

(IV) A member of the Executive Committee shall not at the same time be a member of the Disciplinary Committee, Arbitration Committee or Ethics and Fair Play Committee

of CFA.

(V) If the vacancy of the Executive Committee is less than fifty percent (50%), the Executive Committee shall designate interim members until the next Congress.

(VI) If the vacancy of the Executive Committee is over fifty percent (50%), an Extraordinary Congress shall be convened to elect members for the remaining term of mandate.

(VII) The vacancy of the Executive Committee may be caused by the resignation of a member, the passing away of a member or a member being absent for three (3) consecutive Executive Committee meetings.

Article 35 Duties of Executive Committee

(I) To implement the decisions of the Congress;

(II) To lead the work of CFA offices;

(III) To review and submit the list of the Executive Committee members to the Congress;

(IV) To decide and prepare the Congress and the Extraordinary Congress;

(V) To draft the work report;

(VI) To review the plans, reports, proposals and other documents to be submitted to the Congress and make suggestions to the Congress;

(VII) To appoint the Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons and members of the standing committees and branches. The Chairpersons for the judicial bodies shall be appointed by the Congress;

(VIII) To suspend a member of the Executive Committee and the suspension period

shall be within three (3) months;

(IX) To recommend the external auditors to the Congress;

(X) To appoint and dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President;

(XI) To ensure the effective implementation of CFA Statutes;

(XII) To draft the amendments to the CFA Statutes to be reviewed by the Congress, and to formulate and approve the regulations or work specification for CFA offices;

(XIII) To temporarily suspend the membership;

(XIV) To establish, organize or cancel national football competitions;

(XV) To decide on the persons for honorary titles;

(XVI) The Executive Committee is entitled to decide on the matters out of the authority of the Congress, except those which shall be addressed by designated bodies in accordance with these Statutes.

Article 36 Qualifications of an Executive Committee member

(I) The person must have good moral character and a passion for football;

(II) The person shall have significant influence in football or relevant businesses;

(III) The age shall not exceed seventy (70) years old;

(IV) The person shall be healthy enough to perform his or her duty;

(V) The person must not have his or her political rights deprived and must not commit any criminal offense;

(VI) The person must be with full capacity for civil conduct.

Article 37 Appointment of an Executive Committee member

The candidate of the Executive Committee shall be nominated by a member

association or the Executive Committee and the list of the candidates shall be submitted to the Congress by the Executive Committee.

Article 38 Executive Committee meeting

(I) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year. The convening of an Executive Committee meeting requires at least two-thirds (2/3) attendance of the members. If the President deems it necessary or over fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Committee members request a meeting, the Executive Committee meeting may be convened.

(II) The President shall decide on the agenda, time and place of the Executive Committee meeting. Proposals of Executive Committee members shall be submitted to the Secretariat at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the meeting. The Executive Committee members shall be notified of the agenda of the Executive Committee meeting at least seven (7) days before the date of the meeting.

(III) The Executive Committee can invite observers to attend meeting, without a right to vote.

(IV) The Executive Committee shall decide whether an Executive Committee member who has a stake in the decision items needs to be avoided from the Executive Committee meeting.

(V) A decision shall be valid by the approval of a simple majority (more than 50%) of the members present. Only the members present are entitled to vote. Voting by letter or by proxy is not permitted.

(VI) In the case of an equality of votes at the Executive Committee meeting, the

President shall make the final decision.

(VII) The Executive Committee can engage experts for consultation and other services.

(VIII) Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be documented.

(IX) Decisions passed by the Executive Committee shall come into effect immediately unless otherwise specified.

Section 3 The President, Vice Presidents and General Secretary

Article 39 The CFA shall have one (1) president, three (3) to five (5) vice presidents and one (1) general secretary.

The number of the above-mentioned positions shall not exceed one third (1/3) of the Executive Committee members.

Article 40 The persons of the above-mentioned positions shall:

(I) Have good work and moral ethics and love the country;

(II) Observe the laws and regulations, hard-working, and have a good social credit record;

(III) Have necessary professional knowledge, expertise and capacity for the position, understand the development of football and have a significant influence over the business;

(IV) Be healthy enough to perform his or her duty and be under seventy (70) years old.

The General Secretary is a full time position;

(V) Have full capacity for civil conduct;

(VI) Act honestly and work hard in fulfilling his or her duty and protect the legitimate rights and interests of CFA and its members;

(VII) Not involved in the situations which are not suitable to take such positions due to the ruling of the national laws, regulations or policies.

Article 41 The term of the President, Vice Presidents and General Secretary is the same as that of the Executive Committee and they may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Article 42 Duties of CFA President

(I) The President chairs the Congress and the meetings of the Executive Committee.

A CFA President may delegate a Vice President to convene such meeting.

(II) Lead and oversee the work of the General Secretary and the Secretariat.

(III) Nominate the General Secretary and the Chairpersons of the standing committees and branches to the Executive Committee.

(IV) Check the implementation of the decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee.

(V) Lead the work of the Executive Committee.

(VI) Develop friendly relationships with FIFA, AFC and their member associations, relevant government bodies and international organizations.

(VII) If the President is unavailable, the Vice President shall deputise until the President resumes work or a new president is elected by the next Congress.

Article 43 Election of CFA President

The candidates of the President shall be nominated by CFA members or Executive Committee members and the list of candidates shall be submitted by the Executive Committee to the Congress for election.

Article 44 Legal representative

(I) The President is the legal representative of CFA. Under special circumstances, a Vice President, recommended by the President and approved by the Executive Committee, can serve as the legal representative, provided that requirements of the relevant laws and regulations of China are met. The legal representative is the authorised signatory of CFA.

(II) The legal representative of CFA shall not be the legal representative of another social organization.

Article 45 The Vice Presidents and the General Secretary support the President in his or her work. The General Secretary is nominated by the President and approved by the Executive Committee. The General Secretary has the following duties:

(I) Lead the daily work of the Secretariat;

(II) Be responsible for recruiting workforce for the Secretariat and suggest the candidates of the Management of the Secretariat;

(III) Make overall arrangements of the Congress, the meetings of the Executive Committee, the standing committees and the branches;

(IV) Attend the Congress, the meetings of the Executive Committee, the standing committees and the branches;

(V) Implement the decisions made by the Congress, the Executive Committee, the

standing committees and the branches;

(VI) Properly manage the accounts of CFA;

(VII) Manage the correspondences of CFA;

(VIII) Deal with international relations and coordinate the work of the standing committees and the branches.

Article 46 President's Office Meeting

President's Office Meeting is called by the President to address daily priorities when the Executive Committee is not in session.

The President's Office Meeting is convened according to the Standing Order of the President's Office Meeting of CFA.

Section 4 Honorary positions

Article 47 Honorary president, honorary consultant, CFA consultant and honorary member

(I) The Executive Committee may appoint CFA honorary president, honorary consultant, CFA consultant or honorary member for their meritorious service to Chinese football.

(II) The persons who hold the above-mentioned honorary positions may take part in the Congress as observers.

Section 5 Standing committees and ad-hoc committees

Article 48 Standing committees

(I) The standing committee shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in their respective fields of function.

(II) CFA has the Ethics and Fair Play Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, the Arbitration Committee and other standing committees.

(III) Only members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed as the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees with the exception of the chairpersons of the Ethics and Fair Play Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, and the Arbitration Committee, who shall not belong to the Executive Committee. Each standing committee has one (1) chairperson, deputy chairperson and members, and one (1) executive secretary. The term of office for the above-mentioned positions is four (4) years and re-election is allowed.

Article 49 Duties of the standing committees

(I) The Executive Committee shall draw up the General Provisions of the Standing Committees (hereinafter referred to as "General Provisions") to regulate the establishing procedure, qualifications of the members and working mechanisms of the Standing Committees.

(II) The standing committees shall be responsible for the medium and long-term development plans, annual work plan, budget and final account and designate budgeting within their respective fields of function. The standing committees shall set up the working mechanism and regulations in accordance with the General

Provisions and implement them upon the approval of the Executive Committee.

(III) The Chairpersons of the standing committees shall be responsible for the work of the committee and report their work to the Executive Committee regularly.

(IV) The Chairpersons of the standing committees and the Secretariat shall jointly decide the schedule of the meetings of respective committees and ensure the completion of various tasks.

Article 50 Ad-hoc committee

The Executive Committee can establish an ad-hoc committee if necessary to perform specific tasks. The Executive Committee shall decide the work specification and duties of the ad-hoc committee, and the ad-hoc committee shall report to the Executive Committee.

Chapter IV Judicial Bodies

Article 51 CFA maintains a governance system which pays equal attention to prevention and disciplinary sanctions in the football industry.

Article 52 Disciplinary Committee, Ethics and Fair Play Committee, Arbitration Committee

(I) The Disciplinary Committee, Ethics and Fair Play Committee, and Arbitration Committee are the judicial bodies of CFA.

(II) The duties of the Disciplinary Committee, Ethics and Fair Play Committee, and Arbitration Committee are stipulated in the Work Specifications of the CFA

Committees.

(III) The members of the Disciplinary Committee, Ethics and Fair Play Committee, and Arbitration Committee cannot hold posts of other CFA bodies. Each of these three (3) committees consists of one (1) chairperson, deputy chairperson and members. The chairperson and the majority of the members of the three (3) committees shall have legal qualifications.

(IV) The Executive Committee formulates the work specification and rules for these three (3) committees.

Article 53 Sanctions

The CFA may impose the following sanctions in accordance with relevant regulations of FIFA and AFC:

(I) for natural person and legal person:

1. Circulating a notice of criticism;
2. Warning;
3. Fines;
4. Withdrawal of a title or award;
5. Transfer ban;
6. Disqualification from registration;
7. Prohibition of engaging in any football-related activities;
8. Other sanctions by CFA.

(II) Other sanctions for natural person:

1. Caution;

2. Sending off;
3. Suspension;
4. Ban on entering the dressing room and/or the bench;
5. Ban on entering the stadium;
6. Social work.

(III) Other sanctions for legal person:

1. Full Stadium closure;
2. Order to play a match on neutral territory;
3. Ban on playing in a particular Stadium;
4. Annulment of the result of the match;
5. Defeat by 0:3 or the actual score if the conceding goals are more than three;
6. Deduction of points;
7. Disqualification from a competition in progress;
8. Relegation to a lower division;
9. Reduction on the transfer quota;
10. Suspension on registering foreign players;
11. Order that a match be replayed.

(IV) The above-mentioned disciplinary sanctions shall not violate the laws of the People's Republic of China.

Article 54 Jurisdiction of CFA in dispute settlement

(I) The football organizations and football participants within the jurisdiction of CFA shall not bring the disputes to the civil courts unless otherwise specified by CFA and

FIFA Statutes. The disputes shall be settled by relevant CFA or FIFA institutions.

(II) In case that the parties to the dispute or the dispute matters are within the jurisdiction of CFA, the dispute is deemed as a domestic one and CFA has judicial competency over the dispute. Other disputes are international ones and FIFA has judicial competency over them.

Article 55 Court of Arbitration for Sport

(I) In accordance with the FIFA Statutes, any appeal against the final and binding rulings issued by FIFA should be filed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, except for the following situations: rulings issued by an independent arbitration committee of a FIFA Member Association or a Confederation, rulings violating the Laws of the Game, rulings of suspension of no more than four (4) matches or less than three (3) months.

(II) Football organizations and football participants within the jurisdiction of CFA shall accept the final ruling issued by the FIFA and the Court of Arbitration for Sport as long as such rulings do not violate the laws and regulations of China.

Chapter V Executive Offices

Article 56 Secretariat

(I) The Secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of the CFA.

(II) Responsibilities of the Secretariat

1. To implement the decisions made by the Congress and the Executive Committee.
2. To implement the decisions made by the standing committees.

3. To deal with daily administrative work.
4. To prepare the Congress, the meetings of the Executive Committee and those of the standing committees and branches.
5. To complete the minutes for the Congress, the meetings of the Executive Committee and those of the standing committees and branches.
6. To manage the archive of the CFA .

Chapter VI Competitions and Rights

Article 57 Rights of competitions

(I) In accordance with the Law of the People's Republic of China on Physical Culture and Sports and FIFA Statutes, CFA, as the governing body of football in China, is the rights owner of the competitions and events within its jurisdiction. These rights include but not limit to copyright, intellectual property rights, commercial rights and financial rights.

(II) CFA can exercise the above rights independently or collaboratively or authorize to a third party.

(III) CFA protects the commercial rights generated from the competitions and events hosted by the CFA and its member associations.

(IV) CFA protects the commercial rights of the clubs and those which generated from their participation of competitions.

(V) CFA and its members have the right, within their jurisdiction, to publicize the video,

audio and other data of the competitions and events with a license.

Article 58 Competition management

- (I) Competitions under the jurisdiction of CFA are managed by registration.
- (II) National football competitions, open competitions of national teams of all age groups, and FIFA or AFC tournaments hosted by CFA are directly managed by CFA.
- (III) Club competitions under the jurisdiction of a CFA member association, and bilateral or multilateral tournaments participated by clubs (teams) from different countries or regions are managed by the member association.

Article 59 Match authorization

- (I) CFA shall file requests for authorization for matches stipulated in FIFA and AFC Statutes and any relevant FIFA or AFC Regulations.
- (II) Bilateral or multilateral senior tournaments hosted by a member association within its jurisdiction and participated by clubs registered with different CFA member associations or by foreign teams or clubs must be filed to CFA for authorization in accordance with CFA Statutes and relevant CFA Regulations.

Article 60 Levies

- (I) International or regional matches hosted within the jurisdiction of CFA may need to pay a levy in accordance with FIFA or AFC Statutes and regulations.
- (II) If CFA, its member association or participating club(s) reach a hosting agreement, then the levy shall be charged according to the agreement.

Article 61 International tournament

- (I) FIFA shall have the exclusive rights to organize or sanction international

competitions participated by its member associations, professional leagues and clubs.

No international match may be played without the sanction of FIFA or relevant confederations where necessary.

(II) CFA, its member associations and clubs shall follow the match calendar issued by FIFA and AFC.

Article 62 International exchange

(I) Without the approval of FIFA, CFA and clubs within its jurisdiction shall not entertain sporting contact with non-FIFA members or interim members of confederations.

(II) If an association has not been recognized by CFA or the relevant football association or FIFA, any club within the jurisdiction of CFA shall not join in such association or participate in competitions organized by such association unless under special circumstances.

(III) Without the approval of CFA, CFA member associations and clubs within the jurisdiction of CFA shall not establish cross-region league organization or club union.

Chapter VII Asset Management and Its Usage

Article 63 Fiscal year

The fiscal year of CFA starts on January 1st and ends on December 31st of the same year.

Article 64 Sources of funding

- (I) Membership subscriptions.
- (II) Registration fee.
- (III) Revenue from events and services within the approved business scope.
- (IV) Revenue of tournament.
- (V) Donation.
- (VI) State subsidy.
- (VII) Funding from international organization.
- (VIII) Interest.
- (IX) Other legitimate revenue.

Article 65 Expenditure

(I) Expenditure

1. Expenditure stipulated in the annual budget.
 2. Other expenditures upon approval of the Congress.
 3. Expenditure of the Executive Committee in performing its duties.
 4. Other expenditures generated from achieving the goals of CFA in a better way.
- (II) CFA shall spend its funding to develop its business in accordance with CFA Statutes. The funding shall not be allocated among its members.

Article 66 Financial management

- (I) CFA implements the Accounting System for Private Non-Profit Organization, and establishes a strict financial management system to ensure the legitimacy, authenticity, accuracy and completeness of its accounting information.
- (II) CFA shall employ qualified accounting personnel. The accounting personnel must

not work as cashier. The accounting personnel shall perform accounting and its supervision. The accounting personnel shall complete the handover procedure in case of job transfer or dimission.

Article 67 Asset management

(I) The asset management of CFA must follow the national financial management system and accept the supervision of the Congress and the financial authorities. State financial allocations or donation and funding from the public shall receive external auditing and public supervision.

(II) Major asset allocation and disposal must be approved by the Congress or the Executive Committee.

(III) The asset of CFA and its premium are properties of CFA. Any organization or individual must not embezzle or misappropriate the asset.

Article 68 Audit

(I) The financial audit of CFA is conducted by an independent audit office.

(II) A financial audit shall be conducted before the change of office or that of the legal representative. During the term of a legal representative, they shall bear the responsibility for any violation against the Regulations on the Registration of Social Organizations or CFA Statutes. The legal representative shall assume his or her individual responsibility for illegal act or asset loss due to the negligence of duty by the legal representative.

Article 69 Membership subscriptions

(I) The amount of the membership subscriptions shall be proposed by the Executive

Committee and approved by the Congress. It shall be the same for every member association.

(II) Membership subscriptions are due on 31 January of each year. The annual subscription for new member associations shall be paid in accordance with Article 11 of these Statutes.

Chapter VIII Information Disclosure and Credit Commitment

Article 70 CFA carries out its obligation in information disclosure according to the relevant national policies and regulations. It establishes an information disclosure mechanism, discloses to its member associations the annual work report, report given by a third party, balance of membership subscriptions and other information deemed necessary to be disclosed by the Executive Committee in a timely manner. It discloses the registered affairs, CFA Statutes, organizational structure, donation details, credit commitment, tasks allocated or entrusted by the government, services and their operations to the public in a timely manner.

CFA organizes press conference, news briefings and interviews to publish information regarding major activities and events of CFA and responses to public concerns by the CFA Spokesperson. The information disclosed shall be approved by CFA legal representative or the responsible persons to ensure the proper direction of public opinion.

Article 71 CFA adopts an annual reporting system and the annual report is disclosed to the public in a timely manner to accept public supervision.

Article 72 CFA adopts a credit commitment system regarding the content, methods, targets and payment standards of its services, and discloses the credit commitment to the public.

Chapter IX Termination Procedures and Subsequent Asset Disposal

Article 73 The termination motion of CFA shall be proposed by the Executive Committee to the Congress for review.

Article 74 A liquidation team shall be established according to the laws prior to the termination to settle claims and debts and address the relevant matters. During its liquidation, irrelevant activities will not be conducted.

Article 75 CFA will cease to function after the completion of the cancellation of registration at the registration authorities.

The remaining asset of CFA after its liquidation will be used for the cause relevant to its tenet or donated to the social organizations with a similar tenet to develop football causes under the supervision of relevant authorities and following the relevant national regulations.

Chapter X Supplementary Provisions

Article 76 The numbers in CFA Statutes are included with determiners of "above/more than", "under/less than" and "prior to", and are excluded with determiners of "exceed" and "insufficient".

Article 77 These Statutes were adopted at the 11th CFA Congress on August 22nd, 2019.

Article 78 The CFA Executive Committee reserves the right to interpretation of these Statutes. Matters not provided herein shall be stipulated separately by the Executive Committee.

These Statutes shall come into force upon the acknowledgement of the national registration authorities.