

Islamic Republic of Iran Football Federation

Statutes

October 2020 edition (FIFA)

Approved on 28 Nov. 2020 by General Assembly of IRIFF

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DEFINITIONS

The terms given below denote the following:

IRIFF: Islamic Republic of Iran Football Federation.

FIFA : Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

AFC: Asian Football Confederation.

Association: a football association recognised as such by FIFA and by the relevant confederation. It is a member of FIFA, unless a different meaning is evident from the context.

League (Professional/ Amateur): Competitions organised by IRIFF and participated by its affiliated clubs within the jurisdiction of IRIFF (territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran)

Regional association: an organisation that is subordinate to an association.

Confederation: a group of associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographic region).

Club: a member of an association (that is a member of FIFA and of the relevant confederation) or a member of a league recognised by an association that enters at least one team in a competition.

Official: any member of executive committee, committees, general secretary and staff, match officials including but not limited to referee, assistant referee, etc., board members and managing director of clubs, coach, trainer and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in FIFA, a confederation, an association, a regional association, a league or a club as well as any other persons obliged to comply with the FIFA Statutes, (except players and intermediaries), AFC Statutes and IRIFF Statutes.

Player: a football player registered by IRIFF.

General Assembly: the supreme and legislative body of IRIFF.

Executive Committee: The executive body of IRIFF elected by the General Assembly.

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

Delegate: a natural person validly representing a Member at the General Assembly.

Association football: the game controlled by FIFA and organised by FIFA, the confederations and/or the associations in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

Laws of the Game: the laws of association football issued by The IFAB in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Statutes.

The IFAB: The International Football Association Board (IFAB).

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

CAS: Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne (Switzerland).

NB: Terms referring to natural persons include both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

Article **1** **Name, headquarters, legal form**

- ¹ IRIFF is an autonomous non-profit non-governmental entity with legal personality, established in compliance with the legislation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is formed for an unlimited period.
 - ² The headquarters of IRIFF are in Tehran.
 - ³ IRIFF is a member of FIFA and of the AFC.
 - ⁴ The flag, emblem, abbreviation and logo of IRIFF is registered in compliance with current legal procedures in Islamic Republic of Iran.
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Article **2** **Objectives**

The objectives of IRIFF are:

- a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of IRIFF in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
- b) to organise competitions in Association Football in all its forms at national level, by defining precisely, as required, the areas of authority conceded to the various Leagues of which it is composed;
- c) to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
- d) to protect the interests of its Members;
- e) to respect and prevent any infringement of the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, of the AFC and of IRIFF as well as the Laws of the Game, and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members;
- f) to promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardise the integrity of matches, competitions, Players, Officials and Members or give rise to abuse of Association Football, futsal or beach soccer;
- g) to control and supervise all friendly football matches of all forms played throughout the territory of IRIFF;
- h) to control,, organise and supervise Association Football, futsal and beach soccer at national level and to control ,, organise and supervise all forms of international football matches played throughout the territory of IRIFF, in accordance with the relevant Statutes and regulations of FIFA and AFC;
- i) to manage international sporting relations connected with Association Football in all its forms;
- j) to host competitions at international and other levels;
- k) to regulate all matters relating to refereeing, the fight against doping, the registration of players, club licensing, the imposition of disciplinary measures, including for ethical misconduct, and all measures required to protect the integrity of competitions;

- l) to publicly develop association football, futsal and beach soccer in accordance with the strategy of sport for all.

Article **3** **Neutrality, independence, and non-discrimination**

- ¹ IRIFF is neutral in the matters of party politics and religion.
- ² IRIFF shall remain independent and shall avoid any form of undue political interference. IRIFF shall manage its affairs independently and shall ensure that its own affairs are not influenced by any third parties.
- ³ IRIFF is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights. Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion and/or disciplinary measures.

Article **4** **Promoting friendly relations**

- ¹ IRIFF shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players and in society for humanitarian objectives.
- ² Every person and organisation involved in the game of Association Football is obliged to observe the relevant Statutes, regulations and the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.
- ³ IRIFF shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between the Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of IRIFF.

Article **5** **Players**

- ¹ The status of Players and the provisions for their transfer shall be regulated by the Executive Committee of IRIFF in accordance with the current FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- ² Players shall be registered in accordance with the regulations of IRIFF.

Article **6** **Laws of the Game**

- ¹ IRIFF and each of its Members play 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.

² IRIFF and each of its Members play futsal and beach soccer in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game. Only FIFA may lay down and alter the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.

Article 7 Conduct of bodies and Officials

All bodies and Officials of IRIFF must observe the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, of the AFC, and of IRIFF in their activities.

Article 8 Official languages

¹ The official languages of IRIFF shall be Persian and English. Official documents and texts shall be written in this/these language(s). In the event of any divergence between the interpretation of texts in different languages, the text written in Persian shall be regarded as authoritative.

² The official language(s) at the General Assembly shall be Persian.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Article 9 Admission, suspension and expulsion

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

² Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of IRIFF in accordance with the statutes of IRIFF.

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

- ¹ The Members of IRIFF are:
 - a) Clubs;
 - b) League Organisation (both male and female football, futsal and beach soccer leagues);
 - c) Regional Associations;
 - d) Players (as natural persons);
 - e) Referees (as natural persons);
 - f) Coaches (as natural persons);
 - g) The football section of the students sports association
 - h) The football section of the university sports association
 - l) The football section of the army sports association
 - j) The football section of the labour sports organisation.
 - k) Unions, associations, and NGOs active in football

- ² Any legal person wishing to become a Member of IRIFF shall apply in writing to the general secretariat of IRIFF.

- ³ The application must be accompanied by the following mandatory items:
 - a) a copy of its legally valid statutes and regulations along with legally valid sporting activity license;
 - b) a declaration that it will always comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of IRIFF, FIFA and the AFC and ensure that these are also respected by its own members, clubs, officials and players;
 - c) a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game in force as laid down by The IFAB as well as the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as laid down by FIFA;
 - d) a declaration that it will not take matters of interpretation and application of the FIFA, the AFC, and IRIFF Statutes, regulations, decisions and directives to Ordinary Courts, unless the FIFA, the AFC, or the IRIFF regulations, or binding national law, provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts;
 - e) a declaration that it recognises the judicial bodies of IRIFF and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, as specified in these Statutes;
 - f) a declaration that it is located and registered [if legally required] in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran ;
 - g) a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - h) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity and that its officials were elected or appointed by a process that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment;
 - i) a list of officials, specifying those who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
 - j) a declaration that it undertakes to organise or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of IRIFF;
 - k) a copy of the minutes of its last General Assembly or constitutional meeting;

Article **11** Request and procedure for application

¹ The Executive Committee shall request the General Assembly either to admit or not to admit an applicant. The applicant may state the reasons for its application to the General Assembly.

² The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted. Its delegates are eligible to vote and its candidates are eligible to be elected with immediate effect.

Article **12** Members' rights

¹ The Members of IRIFF have the following rights:

- a) to take part in the General Assembly of IRIFF (subject to the criteria established in article 22 of these statutes), to receive its agenda in advance (all Members), to be called to the General Assembly within the prescribed time and to exercise their voting rights (subject to the criteria established in article 22 of these statutes);
- b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly (all Members);
- c) to nominate candidates for elections to all bodies of IRIFF (all Members);
- d) to be informed of the affairs of IRIFF through the official bodies of IRIFF (all Members);
- e) to take part in competitions and/or other sporting activities organised by IRIFF (all Members);
- f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of IRIFF (all Members).

² The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and the applicable regulations. The membership rights of natural persons who are members of the IRIFF (players, referees, coaches) shall be exercised through their delegates as described in article 22 of these Statutes.

Article **13** Members' obligations

¹ The Members of IRIFF have the following obligations:

- a) to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, the AFC, and IRIFF at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by their members;
- b) to ensure the election of their decision-making bodies (at least every four years);
- c) to take part in competitions and other sporting activities organised by IRIFF;
- d) to pay their membership subscriptions;
- e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by The IFAB and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game and the Futsal Laws of the Game as laid down by FIFA, and to ensure that these are also respected by their members through a statutory provision;

- f) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, the AFC, IRIFF or the League(s) shall only be referred to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, both as specified in the FIFA Statutes and in these Statutes, and that any recourse to Ordinary Courts is prohibited, provided that this does not violate binding law;
- g) to manage their affairs independently and ensure that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties in accordance with art. 17 of these Statutes;
- h) to ensure that their bodies are either elected or appointed according to a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment;
- i) to communicate to IRIFF any amendment of its statutes and regulations as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- j) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities which are not recognised or with Members 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 under article 10 paragraph 3 for the duration of their affiliation;
- m) to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;
- n) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes of IRIFF.
- o) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA, the AFC, and IRIFF.

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

Article **14** Suspension

¹ The General Assembly is responsible for suspending a Member. The Executive Committee may, however, suspend a Member that seriously and/or repeatedly violates its obligations as a Member with immediate effect. Such a suspension shall last until the next General Assembly, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime.

² A suspension shall be confirmed at the next General Assembly by a three-quarter majority of the delegates representing the Members present and eligible to vote. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted.

³ A suspended Member shall lose its membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.

⁴ Members that do not participate in the sporting activities of IRIFF for two consecutive years shall be suspended from voting at the General Assembly and their representatives shall not be elected or appointed until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

Article **15** Expulsion

- ¹ The General Assembly may expel a Member if:
 - a) it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards IRIFF;
 - b) it repeatedly violates the Statutes, regulations, directives or decisions of FIFA, the AFC, and IRIFF;
 - c) it brings a dispute to an Ordinary Court, except in cases where the FIFA, the AFC, or IRIFF regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts.
 - ² The presence of a majority (more than 50%) of delegates representing the Members eligible to vote at the General Assembly is necessary for an expulsion to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarter majority of the valid votes cast.
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Article **16** Resignation

- ¹ A Member may resign from IRIFF with effect from the end of a football season. Notice of resignation must reach the general secretariat no later than six months before the end of a football season.
 - ² The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards IRIFF and the other Members of IRIFF.
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Article **17** Independence of Members and their bodies

- ¹ Each Member shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third parties.
 - ² The Members' bodies shall be either elected or appointed. The Members' statutes shall provide for a democratic procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment.
 - ³ Any Members' bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with the provisions of par. 2, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by IRIFF.
 - ⁴ Decisions passed by bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with par. 2 shall not be recognised by IRIFF.
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Article **18** Status of Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations and other groups

- ¹ Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations or any other groups affiliated to IRIFF shall be subordinate to and recognised by IRIFF. There shall only be one top-tier national league on the territory of IRIFF. These Statutes define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these Clubs, Leagues, regional associations and groups. Their statutes and regulations must be approved by the Executive Committee of IRIFF. IRIFF shall

have the primary responsibility to regulate matters relating to refereeing, the fight against doping, the registration of players, club licensing, the imposition of disciplinary measures, including for ethical misconduct, as well as measures required to protect the integrity of competitions Matters.

² The affiliated Clubs and groups of IRIFF shall take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.

³ In any case, no natural or legal person (including companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

III. HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBER

Article 19 **Honorary president and honorary member**

¹ The General Assembly may bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member upon any person for meritorious service to football.

² The Executive Committee shall make these nominations.

³ The honorary president or honorary member may take part in the General Assembly. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

⁴ The Minister of Sports and Youth shall be an ex-officio honorary member of the General Assembly. He shall be entitled to receive the agenda of the General Assembly and shall have a right to debate but not to vote.

IV. ORGANISATION

Article 20 **Bodies of IRIFF**

¹ The General Assembly is the supreme and legislative body.

² The Executive Committee is the executive body.

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

⁴ The general secretariat is the administrative body.

⁵ The independent bodies fulfil their functions in accordance with these Statutes and the applicable regulations. The independent bodies are the independent committees and the judicial bodies.

⁶ The independent committees are the Audit Committee and the Elections Committees.

⁷ The judicial bodies are the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee.

⁸ The Club Licensing Body is in charge of the club licensing system within IRIFF.

⁹ The members of the bodies of IRIFF shall be either elected or appointed by IRIFF itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes. The members of the bodies shall not have previously been found guilty of any criminal offence incompatible with the position.

¹⁰ Any member of the bodies of IRIFF must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interest. Members of the bodies of IRIFF shall always be aware of, and comply with, the relevant provisions of the FIFA Code of Ethics on conflicts of interest and adjust their conduct as necessary (e.g., abstain from performing their duties, notify the chairperson in case of potential conflicts of interest, and suchlike).

A. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 21 Definition and composition of the General Assembly

¹ The General Assembly is the meeting at which all of the Members of IRIFF regularly convene. It shall meet at least once a year. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of IRIFF. Only a General Assembly that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.

² A General Assembly may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary General Assembly.

³ The President of IRIFF shall chair the General Assembly in compliance with these Statutes and the Standing Orders of the General Assembly.

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

⁵ The honorary presidents or honorary members may take part in the General Assembly. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

Article 22 Delegates and votes

¹ The General Assembly is composed of the following delegates:

- a) Each club in men's football professional league. one delegate with one vote.
- b) For each of the Eight top clubs from national men's senior first division league in the season preceding the General Assembly, one delegate with one vote.;
- c) For each of the top Four (4) clubs from national men's senior second division league in the season preceding the General Assembly, one delegate with one vote;
- d) For each of the top Three (3) clubs from national men's senior futsal professional league in the season preceding the General Assembly, one delegate with one vote.
- e) For each of the top Two (2) clubs from national men's senior beach soccer professional league in the season preceding the General Assembly, one delegate with one vote.
- f) For each of the top Two (2) clubs from national women's senior futsal professional league in the season preceding the General Assembly, one delegate with one vote.

- g) For the top one (1) club from national women's senior beach soccer league in the season preceding the General Assembly, one delegate with one vote.
- h) For each of the top Two (2) clubs from national women's senior football professional league in the season preceding the General Assembly, one delegate with one vote.
- i) For each Regional Association, and Kish Island Regional Association, one delegate with one vote.
- j) The football section of the university, labour, army, and student sports association, one delegate with one vote each
- k) First captains (if unavailable to participate, the second captain) of all men and women national football, futsal and beach soccer senior teams as the representatives of players. Total of six (6) delegates with one vote each.
- l) The head coaches of men's senior national football, futsal and beach soccer teams and head coaches of women's national football, futsal and beach soccer teams as the representatives of the coaches. If any of the mentioned head coaches is of non-Iranian nationality, his/her Iranian assistant shall replace him/her. Total of six (6) delegates with one vote each.
- m) One female delegate and one male delegate representing referees who are active in refereeing in Iran and are on top of the ranking of active international referees with one vote each.

- n) Iranian Clubs' Association one delegate with one vote.

² Delegates must belong to the Member that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.

³ Only the delegates present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted. Clubs' votes are cast by their managing directors and Regional Associations' votes by their Presidents. If managing directors of the clubs or Presidents of the Regional Associations are unable to attend, they shall be respectively replaced by one of the board members of the club or by Regional Association's vice-president or secretary, who shall present an official letter of replacement to the General Assembly upon request.

⁴ The Executive Committee and the General Secretary shall take part in the General Assembly without voting rights. During their terms of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed as delegates to the General Assembly.

⁵ The relevant membership for the categories of clubs mentioned in let. A - to H above, shall be determined based on the ranking of the last completed season preceding the General Assembly they are convened to.

⁶ If the competitions are held in several groups, equal number of Clubs from each group will be determined as the Members of the General Assembly.

⁷ In case of dissolution of any Club which is a Member of General Assembly as per these Statutes, the next highest ranked club in the last completed season preceding the General Assembly shall replace the disbanded Club.

⁸ All delegates to the General Assembly must be Iranian nationals.

Article **23** Areas of authority

The General Assembly has the following areas of authority:

- a) adopting or amending the Statutes, the Electoral Code and the Standing Orders of the General Assembly;
- b) appointing three Members to check the minutes, and approving the minutes of the last meeting;
- c) appointing three scrutineers to count the votes and to assist the General Secretary in distributing the ballot papers issued for the elections;
- d) electing or dismissing the President, the vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee;
- e) electing or dismissing the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the independent bodies (the Audit Committee, the Electoral Committees, and the judicial bodies), upon proposal of the Executive Committee;
- f) approving the financial statements;
- g) approving the reports of external independent auditor
- h) approving the budget;
- i) approving the annual activity report;
- j) appointing the external independent auditors (for a duration of two years) upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- k) fixing the membership subscriptions on the recommendation of the Executive Committee;
- l) bestowing the title of honorary president or honorary member upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- m) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member;
- n) dismissing a member of a body of IRIFF;
- o) dissolving IRIFF;
- p) passing decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with these Statutes or passing any decision entrusted to the General Assembly in accordance with these Statutes.
- q) appointing the treasurer upon the proposal of the Executive Committee

Article **24** Quorum of the General Assembly

¹ Decisions passed by the General Assembly shall only be valid if a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote are present.

² If a quorum is not achieved, a second General Assembly shall take place within 24 hours with the same agenda.

³ A quorum is not required for the second meeting of the General Assembly unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the Statutes of IRIFF, the election of the President and the election of the vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee, the election of any members of the independent bodies, the dismissal of any members of a body of IRIFF, the expulsion of a Member of IRIFF or the dissolution of IRIFF.

Article 25 Decisions of the General Assembly

¹ A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in alphabetical order of the names of delegates of General Assembly members.

² Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient for a decision to be valid. Blank ballot papers, invalid votes or electronic votes manipulated in any other way as well as abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.

Article 26 Elections

¹ Elections shall take place by position and be conducted by secret ballot.

² Elections of IRIFF, of Members of IRIFF and of members of Members of IRIFF shall be conducted in accordance with the Electoral Code of IRIFF.

³ A majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is necessary for the election of the President. If there are more than two candidates for the office of President, whoever obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two candidates are left. In the event that during the first ballot, more than two candidates receive the highest number of votes (due to tied votes), all of them shall take part in the second ballot. In the second ballot the candidate who receives the highest number of votes is elected as President.

⁴ After the election of the President, the General Assembly shall vote on the elected President's candidates for the post of first, second, and third vice-president. If the General Assembly does not elect one or all of these candidates with a majority of more than 50%, the President shall propose other candidates within three months of the end of the elective General Assembly. The Executive Committee shall then convene an elective Extraordinary General Assembly.

⁵ For the election of the other members of the Executive Committee by position, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) shall be elected.

⁶ For the election of the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the independent bodies of IRIFF [e.g. Audit Committee, electoral committees and judicial bodies], the candidates who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seats shall be elected.

⁷ In case of a tied vote, new ballots shall be conducted until the respective candidate is elected in accordance with the procedure set forth by the present provision.

- ⁸ Elections shall only be valid if at least two thirds of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote are present at the relevant elective General Assembly.

Article **27** Ordinary General Assembly

- ¹ The Ordinary General Assembly shall be held every year.
- ² The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date. The Members shall be notified in writing at least 70 days in advance.
- ³ The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least 21 days before the date of the General Assembly. This convocation shall contain the agenda, the activity report, the financial statements and the auditors' report and any other relevant documents.

Article **28** Ordinary General Assembly agenda

- ¹ The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Executive Committee and the Members. Any proposal that a Member wishes to submit to the General Assembly shall be sent to the general secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least 50 days before the date of the General Assembly.
- ² The General Assembly agenda shall include the following mandatory items (in chronological order):
- a) a declaration that the General Assembly has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes of IRIFF;
 - b) approval of the agenda;
 - c) an address by the President;
 - d) appointment of three Members to check the minutes;
 - e) appointment of three scrutineers;
 - f) admission, suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable);
 - g) approval of the minutes of the preceding General Assembly;
 - h) activity report (containing the activities since the last General Assembly);
 - i) presentation consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement.
 - j) approval of the audited financial statements;
 - k) Presentation and approval of the budget and plan
 - l) votes on proposals for amendments to the Statutes, the Standing Orders of the General Assembly and the Electoral Code (if applicable);
 - m) discussion of proposals submitted by the Members and the Executive Committee in accordance with the procedure stipulated under paragraph 1 above;

- n) appointment of external independent auditors (if applicable) upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
 - o) dismissal of a member of a body (if applicable);
 - p) election of the President, vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee (if applicable);
 - q) election of the members of the judicial bodies upon proposal of the executive committee (if applicable);
 - r) election of the members of the Audit Committee upon proposal of the executive committee (if applicable);
 - s) election of the members of the Electoral Committees upon proposal of the executive committee (if applicable);
 - t) appointment of treasurer upon proposal of the executive committee.
- ³ The General Assembly shall not take a decision on any point not included in the agenda.
- ⁴ The agenda of an Ordinary General Assembly may be altered, provided three-quarters of the delegates representing the Members present at the General Assembly and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.

Article **29** Extraordinary General Assembly

- ¹ The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary General Assembly at any time if two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee request it.
- ² The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary General Assembly if two fifths of the Members of the General Assembly make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. Such requests shall be submitted to general secretariat individually. An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be held within 70 days of receipt of the request. After having fulfilled the above criteria, if an Extraordinary General Assembly is not convened, the Members who requested it may convene the General Assembly themselves. In doing so, they shall inform all the Members of IRIFF and the Executive Committee of the date and location of the Extraordinary General Assembly, along with the items to be included in the agenda, in accordance with par. 3 below. As a last resort, the Members may request the assistance of the AFC and FIFA.
- ³ The Members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda in writing at least 21 days before the date of an Extraordinary General Assembly.
- ⁴ When an Extraordinary General Assembly is convened on the initiative of the Executive Committee, it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary General Assembly is convened upon the request of Members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Members.
- ⁵ The agenda of an Extraordinary General Assembly may not be altered.

Article **30** Amendments to the Statutes, the Standing Orders of the General Assembly and the Electoral Code

- ¹ The General Assembly is responsible for amending these Statutes, the Standing Orders of the General Assembly and the Electoral Code.

² Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the general secretariat by a Member or by the Executive Committee. A proposal submitted by a Member is valid, provided it has been supported in writing and individually by at least 10 other Members.

³ For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes, the Standing Orders of the General Assembly and Electoral Code to be valid, a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote must be present at the General Assembly.

⁴ A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes, the Standing Orders of the General Assembly and the Electoral Code shall be adopted only if more than two thirds of the delegates representing the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it.

Article **31** Minutes

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

Article **32** Effective dates of decisions

Decisions passed by the General Assembly shall come into effect for the Members 60 days after the close of the General Assembly, unless otherwise stipulated in the present Statutes or unless the General Assembly fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article **33** Composition

- ¹ The Executive Committee consists of eleven members, at least one of whom shall be a woman:
- 1 President
 - 3 Vice-Presidents including first Vice-President, the second Vice-President (who shall be head of the Competitions Committee), and the third Vice-President (who shall be the head of the Women's Football Committee and who shall be a woman).
 - Seven further members, two from among the Regional Associations, two from among the managing directors of the clubs participating in Professional League or first division, **and three members with sporting management experience.**

² The President, proposed vice-presidents and the members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly by position. Each candidate for the position of President must be supported by five Members of IRIFF. Each candidate for the position of President shall propose candidates for the three vice-president posts in their application form. Proposed vice-presidents and all other candidates for posts on the Executive Committee must be supported by two Members of IRIFF.

³ The mandate of the President, vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee is for four years. Their mandates shall begin after the end of the General Assembly which has elected them. No person may serve on the Executive Committee, whether as President, Vice-Presidents or other member, for more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not).

⁴ **Vice-Presidents and members of the Executive Committee apart from the provisions in par. 9, Article 20 above, must be domiciled in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and must bear Iranian nationality. Apart from being already active in football, they must have at least four years' experience of management in the field of sports as described in Annexe 1 below.**

⁵ Candidatures (for the posts of President, Vice-Presidents and members of Executive Committee) must be sent to the general secretariat of IRIFF in accordance with electoral forms of the Electoral Code by 50 days in advance of the General Assembly at the latest. The official list of candidates must be passed to the Members of IRIFF along with the agenda for the General Assembly at which the Executive Committee will be elected.

⁶ A member of the Executive Committee may not at the same time be chairperson, deputy chairperson or a member of an independent body of IRIFF, the delegate of a Member of IRIFF at the General Assembly, the General Secretary of the IRIFF, an active football, futsal and beach soccer referee, intermediary, match agent or chairperson, deputy chairperson or a member of IRIFF Players' Status.

⁷ If a position or up to 50% of the positions of the Executive Committee become vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill the position(s) in question until the next General Assembly, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining period of office.

⁸ A position will be considered vacant in case of resignation, dismissal, death or permanent disability, or if a member of the Executive Committee does not participate in more than four consecutive ordinary meetings.

⁹ If more than 50% of the positions of the Executive Committee become vacant, the General Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Assembly within the prescribed period of time in order to elect the replacements for the remaining period of office.

¹⁰ **President shall be present in IRIFF headquarters on a full-time basis. Vice-Presidents and members of the Executive Committee shall be present in IRIFF headquarters on a part-time basis.**

Article **34** Executive Committee Meetings

¹ The Executive Committee shall meet at least nine times a year.

² The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If one third of the members of the Executive Committee request a meeting, the President shall convene it within 14 days. If the President does not convene the requested meeting by the aforementioned deadline, the other members of the Executive Committee shall convene it themselves.

³ The President shall compile the agenda. Each member of the Executive Committee is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda. The members of the Executive Committee must submit the points they wish to be included in the agenda for the meeting to the general secretariat at least 10 days before the meeting. The agenda must be sent out to the members of the Executive Committee at least seven days before the meeting.

⁴ The General Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Executive Committee as secretary in a consultative role and without voting right. If the General Secretary is unable to attend a meeting, he may nominate a representative to attend the meeting on his behalf, subject to the approval of the President.

⁵ The meetings of the Executive Committee shall not be held in public. The **General Secretary on the proposal of president** may, however, invite third parties to attend. Those third parties shall not have voting rights, and may only express an opinion with the permission of the Executive Committee.

⁶ In case the members of the Executive Committee are not able to convene in person for whatever reason, at the discretion of the President the meeting may be held via video conference or through any other available means of communication. The decisions passed during such meetings shall be valid.

⁷ In case any of the Vice-Presidents or members of the Executive Committee are absent during more than four consecutive ordinary meetings, their positions must be regarded as vacant.

Article **35** Powers of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee:

- a) shall pass decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the General Assembly or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes;
- b) shall prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly of IRIFF;
- c) shall appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees on the proposal of President;
- d) may decide to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary at any time;
- e) shall propose Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and members of the independent bodies of IRIFF to the General Assembly.
- f) shall compile the regulations for the organisation of judicial bodies, Audit Committee, standing committees and ad-hoc committees and approving the statutes of the Regional Associations;
- g) shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President.
- h) shall propose the external independent auditors **for a period of two years** to the General Assembly;
- i) shall appoint replacements for vacancies in the judicial bodies and the Audit Committee until the next General Assembly;
- j) shall draw up regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of competitions organised by the IRIFF;
- k) shall appoint the head coaches for the representative teams on the proposal of President;
- l) shall approve regulations stipulating how IRIFF shall be organised internally;
- m) shall ensure that the Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
- n) may provisionally dismiss a person (with the exception of a member of an independent body) or suspend a Member of IRIFF provisionally until the next General Assembly;
- o) may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of IRIFF;
- p) may appoint observer/observers who may take part in the General Assembly without the right to debate or to vote

- q) shall approve financial statements, budget and plan for presentation to and approval by the General Assembly;
- r) Treasurer is appointed on the proposal of President, approval of the Executive Committee and ratification by General Assembly
- s) may decide on the number of participating teams in football, futsal and beach soccer competitions organised by IRIFF;
- t) shall approve all regulations and directive in relation to financial, trading and employment-related matters.

Article **36** Decisions

- ¹ The Executive Committee shall not engage in valid debate unless two-thirds of its members are present.
- ² The Executive Committee shall reach decisions by a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast. In the event of a tied vote, the President (Vice-President in the absence of President) shall have the casting vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
- ³ Any member of the Executive Committee must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interests, as described in art. 20 par.10 of these Statutes.
- ⁴ The decisions taken shall be recorded by the General Secretary in the minutes.
- ⁵ The decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall come into effect immediately, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

Article **37** Dismissal of a member of a body

¹The General Assembly may dismiss a member of a body. The Executive Committee may also dismiss a member of a body provisionally, with the exception of the members of the independent bodies. The provisional dismissal approved by the Executive Committee shall be confirmed by the next General Assembly, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime. If the next General Assembly is an elective nature, a dismissed member shall be allowed to be an elective candidate (provided that he fulfils the relevant eligibility criteria) on a conditional basis depending on the final decision of the General Assembly on his dismissal which shall be taken before the election.

- ² The motion for dismissal must be justified. It will be sent to the members of the Executive Committee and/or to the Members of IRIFF along with the respective agenda.
- ³ The member of the body in question has the right to defend himself before the General Assembly and/or the Executive Committee.
- ⁴ The motion for dismissal shall be decided by means of secret ballot in writing at the General Assembly and/or the Executive Committee meeting. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds of the valid votes is required.
- ⁵ The member dismissed (provisionally or permanently) is relieved of his or its functions with immediate effect.

C. PRESIDENT

Article 38 President

- ¹ The President represents IRIFF generally. The official signatories for all contracts as well as and the official signatories of all commercial documents and papers (cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange), negotiable instruments and binding instruments are jointly the President and treasurer.
- ² He is primarily responsible for:
 - a) implementing the decisions passed by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee through the general secretariat;
 - b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of IRIFF in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
 - c) supervising the work of the general secretariat;
 - d) relations between IRIFF and its Members, FIFA, the AFC, political bodies and other organisations.
- ³ Only the President may propose the appointment/dismissal of the General Secretary.
- ⁴ The President shall preside over the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and those committees of which he has been appointed chairperson.
- ⁵ The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote.
- ⁶ If the President is absent or unavailable, the first vice-president or if absent the other vice-presidents based on rank shall deputise.
- ⁷ The position of the President will be considered vacant if he does not participate in six consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee without an appropriate excuse.
- ⁸ If the position of the President becomes vacant, the first Vice-President shall deputise until the next General Assembly. If not possible, other vice-presidents based on rank and if not possible the longest-serving member of the Executive Committee shall deputise. This General Assembly shall elect a new President for the remaining period of office. In such conditions, the vice-presidents shall continue to complete their term of office.
- ⁹ Any additional powers of the President shall be set out in the Internal Organisation Regulations of IRIFF as long as such additional powers do not contradict with the present Statutes.

Article 39 Candidates for the office of President

- ¹ The President shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years. His mandate shall begin after the end of the General Assembly which has elected him. A President may be re-elected, but may not serve for longer than three terms in total.

² Only General Assembly Members of IRIFF may propose candidates for the office of President. Members shall notify the general secretariat in writing of the name of a candidate for the presidency of IRIFF at least 50 days before the date of the General Assembly.

³ The general secretariat shall notify the Members of the names of the proposed candidates at least 21 days before the date of the General Assembly together with the agenda of the General Assembly.

⁴ A candidate for the position of President must:

a) be an Iranian national and be resident in the Islamic Republic of Iran;
b) have no criminal record, as certified by national judicial bodies or other competent authorities and comply with art. 20 par. 9 of these Statutes;

c) Apart from a background in football, **have minimum 4 years' experience of management in the field of sports as described in Annexe 1 below.**

E. STANDING COMMITTEES

Article **40** Standing Committees

¹ The standing committees of IRIFF are:

- a) Women Committee;
- b) Competitions Committee;
- c) Technical and Development Committee;
- d) Referees Committee;
- e) Regulatory and Compliance Committee;
- f) Youth Football Committee;
- g) Futsal Committee;
- i) Medical Committee;
- j) Players' Status Committee;
- k) Committee for Fair Play and Social Responsibility;
- l) Media Committee;
- m) Strategic Committee;
- n) Marketing and Television Committee;
- o) Provincial Affairs Committee;
- p) Education Committee;
- q) Beach Soccer Committee.

² The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and members of each standing committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee on the proposal of the President of IRIFF. Each Standing Committee must have at least one female member. The chairmen, deputy chairmen and the members of the standing committees shall be designated for a term of office of four years.

³ Each chairperson shall represent his committee and conduct business in compliance with the relevant Organisation Regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee approves the regulations and directives of Standing Committees.

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

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

⁶ **Chairperson, Deputy Chairmen and members of the Standing Committees shall be present in IRIFF headquarters on a part-time basis.**

Article **41** Competitions Committee

Competitions Committee shall organise the competitions of IRIFF in compliance with the provisions of these Statutes and the regulations applicable to IRIFF's competitions. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members. If organisation of the competitions is delegated to League Organization or any other organizations, Competitions Committee without intervention in executive affairs of the competitions shall supervise the performance of such organization and shall submit its report to the Executive Committee. Furthermore, the Chairperson of Competitions Committee may simultaneously chair the League Organisation.

Article **42** Technical and Development Committee

The Technical and Development Committee shall primarily analyse and oversee the basic aspects of football, futsal and beach soccer technical development. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **43** Referees Committee

The Referees Committee shall implement the Laws of the Game. It shall be responsible for drawing up policies, planning and appointment of the referees and referee assessors for matches in competitions organised by IRIFF, organise refereeing matters within IRIFF in collaboration with the administration of IRIFF and appoint referee instructors and monitor the education and training of referees. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **44** **Regulatory and Compliance Committee**

The Regulatory and Compliance Committee shall analyse basic legal issues relating to football and the evolution of the Statutes, **drawing up** Statutes, rules, regulations and directives of IRIFF and its Members. All rules, regulations, circulars and directives proposed by other bodies shall be approved by the Regulatory and Compliance Committee to ensure compliance with national and international regulations prior to submission to the Executive Committee or General Assembly for ratification. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **45** **Women Committee**

Women Committee shall be responsible to deal with, oversee planning and organizing all matters related to women football, futsal and beach soccer in accordance with the present Statutes and other relevant regulations. Women Committee shall propose coaches for women national teams and oversee women national teams as well as women football, futsal and beach soccer scouting and women football, futsal and beach soccer schools across the country. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **46** **Youth Football Committee**

The Youth Committee shall oversee men's youth national teams as well as football scouting and football schools across the country. It shall propose coaches for men's youth national teams. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **47** **Futsal Committee**

The Futsal Committee shall oversee men's futsal national teams as well as futsal scouting and futsal schools across the country. It shall propose coaches for men's futsal national teams. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **48** **Medical Committee**

The Medical Committee shall deal with all medical aspects of football, futsal and beach soccer. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **49** **Players' Status Committee**

¹ The Players' Status Committee shall set up and monitor compliance with transfer regulations in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players as well as IRIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and determine the status of Players for the various competitions of IRIFF. The Executive Committee may draw up special regulations governing the Players' Status Committee's powers of jurisdiction. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

² Players' status disputes involving financial, occupational and contractual disputes and disputes arising from training compensation, solidarity mechanism between Members, players, officials, match agents and intermediaries and between IRIFF and its members shall be settled by the Players' Status Committee. The job description and jurisdiction of the Players' Status Committee is described in the IRIFF Players Status and Transfer Regulations and rules of procedure, which are approved by the Executive Committee.

Article **50** **Committee for Fair Play and Social Responsibility**

The Committee for Fair Play and Social Responsibility shall be responsible for drawing up policies, promotion and development of all cultural and social matters and all subjects in relation to social responsibility within football, futsal and beach soccer as well as promotion of fair play. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **51** **Media Committee**

The Media Committee shall draw up the strategies related to all media matters in football, futsal and beach soccer in accordance with national and international regulations. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **52** **Strategic Committee**

The Strategic Committee shall draw up the strategies for football development in the country using global strategies for football development. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **53** **Marketing and Television Committee**

The Marketing and Television Committee shall advise the Executive Committee with regard to drafting and implementing contracts and analyse marketing and television strategies that have been devised. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **54** **Provincial Affairs Committee**

The Provincial Affairs Committee shall advise the Executive Committee with regard to coordination and facilitation of the activities and affairs of provincial associations. It shall oversee good governance within Regional Associations and their electoral procedures. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **55** **Beach Soccer Committee**

The Beach Soccer Committee shall oversee beach soccer national teams as well as beach soccer scouting and beach soccer schools across the country. It shall propose coaches for men's beach soccer national teams. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **56** **Education Committee**

The Education Committee shall advise the Executive Committee with regard to plans for coaching courses to be held at different levels and in various fields and shall ensure that such courses are held in compliance with international standards. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five members.

Article **57** **Ad-hoc committees**

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

F. OTHER BODIES

Article 58 Club Licensing Body

¹ The club licensing bodies shall be in charge of the club licensing system within IRIFF in accordance with the Club Licensing Regulations of IRIFF and AFC.

² The club licensing bodies consist of a first instance body and an appeal body. Each club licensing body shall consist of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and up to three members who shall be appointed on the proposal of the President and approval of the Executive Committee. They may not belong to any other body of IRIFF, League Organization and Clubs, nor are they allowed to have any activities within those bodies.

³ Decisions passed by the club licensing appeal body may only be appealed before Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) in accordance with the provisions in these Statutes and the regulations and Statutes of CAS.

⁴ The Executive Committee shall approve Club Licensing regulations in accordance with FIFA and AFC requirements

G. INDEPENDENT BODIES

Article 59 Institutional independence

The independent committees as well as their individual members shall conduct their activities and perform their duties entirely independently but always in the interests of IRIFF and in accordance with its Statutes and regulations.

Article 60 Audit Committee

¹ The Audit Committee shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting and review the financial statements, the consolidated financial statement and the external auditors' reports. The Audit Committee shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to three members. The committee members shall be knowledgeable and experienced in financial and/or regulatory and legal matters and may not be involved in any decision affecting the operations of IRIFF.

² The Audit Committee shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in monitoring the Association's financial and compliance matters, and issue and monitor compliance with the relevant financial regulations of the Association. It shall also supervise the general secretariat in financial issues. The Audit Committee shall ensure the completeness and reliability of IRIFF's financial accounting and review the consolidated financial statements and the independent and external auditor's report. The Audit Committee shall furthermore monitor IRIFF's financial matters and suggest to the appropriate IRIFF bodies any action that it deems necessary as a result of such monitoring.

³ Details on the Audit Committee's responsibilities, its internal cooperation and other procedural matters are stipulated in the relevant regulations of IRIFF.

⁴ The chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the Audit Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years and may only be relieved of their duties by the General Assembly. They may not belong to any other body of IRIFF.

⁵ The chairperson and deputy chairperson of the Audit Committee shall be independent. They shall not be considered independent if, at any time during the four years preceding their terms, they or any family member (spouse, children, stepchildren, parents, siblings, domestic partner, parents of spouse/domestic partner and siblings and children of domestic partner) meets one of the following criteria:

- held any paid position or material contract (directly or indirectly) with IRIFF and or any Member/Confederation, League or Club (including any of their affiliated companies/organisations), whereas a voluntary position with any paid salaries shall also be regarded as a paid position;
- was employed by IRIFF 's outside legal counsel or by IRIFF 's auditor (and was engaged in auditing IRIFF);
- held any paid or voluntary position with a non-profit organisation to which IRIFF and/or any Member, Confederation, League or Club makes annual payments in excess of USD 1000.

⁶ If the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or a member of the Audit Committee permanently ceases to perform his official function during his term of office, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next General Assembly.

Article **61** Electoral Committees

¹ The electoral committees are the bodies in charge of organising and supervising the election process in accordance with the Electoral Code of IRIFF. The electoral committees consist of the Electoral Committee (the first instance body) and the Elections Appeal Committee (the second instance body).

² The composition and function of the electoral committees shall be governed by the Electoral Code of IRIFF.

³ Electoral Committee and Election Appeal Committee shall each consist of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and up to three members. Two substitutes shall also be appointed by the General Assembly upon proposal of the Executive Committee.

H. JUDICIAL BODIES

Article 62 Judicial bodies

- ¹ The judicial bodies of IRIFF are:
 - a) the Disciplinary Committee;
 - b) the Ethics Committee
 - c) the Appeal Committee.
- ² The judicial bodies shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and up to five other members.
- ³ The judicial bodies are to be composed in such a way that the members, together, have the knowledge, abilities and specialist experience that is necessary for the due completion of their tasks. The members of the judicial bodies shall have at least a Bachelor in Law. The term of office of all members shall be four years. The members may be re-elected or relieved of their duties at any time, although they may only be relieved of their duties by the General Assembly.
- ⁴ The chairmen, deputy chairmen and other members of the judicial bodies shall be elected by the General Assembly upon proposal of the Executive Committee and shall not be members of any other body of IRIFF.
- ⁵ The chairperson and deputy chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee, Ethics Committee and Appeal Committee shall fulfil the same independence criteria that are stipulated in art. 60 par. 5 for the chairperson and deputy chairperson of the Audit Committee.
- ⁶ If the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or a member of a judicial body permanently ceases to perform his official function during his term of office, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next General Assembly.
- ⁶ The responsibilities and function of the judicial bodies shall be stipulated in the Disciplinary Code and Ethics Code of IRIFF.

Article 63 Disciplinary Committee and Ethics Committee

- ¹ The function of the Disciplinary Committee and Ethics Committee shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code and Ethics Code of IRIFF.
- ² The Disciplinary Committee and Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the Disciplinary Code and Ethics Code of IRIFF on Members, officials, players, clubs, licensed match agents and intermediaries.
- ³ These provisions do not affect the powers of the General Assembly and Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members.
- ⁴ The Executive Committee shall approve the Disciplinary Code and Ethics Code of IRIFF, which shall be in accordance with the principles laid down in the FIFA Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Ethics Code.
- ⁵ Disciplinary Committee and Ethics Committee consist of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and up to five members. The decisions are passed only if minimum three members are present, one of whom must necessarily be the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson. In certain cases, as specified in the relevant regulations, the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee and the Chairperson of the Ethics Committee may rule alone.

Article 64 Appeal Committee

- ¹ The function of the Appeal Committee shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code, Ethics Code and Regulations on the Status and Transfer of players of IRIFF. Appeal Committee consists of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and up to five members. The decisions are passed only if minimum three members are present, one of whom must necessarily be the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson. In certain cases, as specified in the relevant regulations, the chairperson may rule alone.
- ² The Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and Players' Status Committee that are not declared final by the relevant regulations of IRIFF.
- ³ Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee may only be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Article 65 Disciplinary measures

The disciplinary measures are primarily:

- ¹ for natural and legal persons:
 - a) a warning;
 - b) a reprimand;
 - c) a fine;
 - d) the return of awards.
- ² for natural persons:
 - a) a caution;
 - b) an expulsion;
 - c) a match suspension;
 - d) a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
 - e) a ban from entering a stadium;
 - f) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
 - g) social work.
- ³ for legal persons:
 - a) a transfer ban;
 - b) playing a match without spectators;
 - c) playing a match on neutral territory;
 - d) a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
 - e) annulment of the result of the match;
 - f) expulsion from a competition;
 - g) a forfeit;
 - h) deduction of points;
 - i) relegation to a lower division;
 - j) replaying a match.

H. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Article 66 General Secretariat

The general secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of IRIFF under the direction of the General Secretary. The members of the general secretariat are bound by the Internal Organisational Regulations of IRIFF and shall fulfil the given tasks in good faith.

Article 67 General Secretary

- ¹ The General Secretary is the chief executive of the general secretariat.
- ² He shall be appointed on the proposal of the President and the approval of the Executive Committee and on the basis of an agreement governed by private law cooperates with IRIFF on a full-time basis. He shall have the necessary professional qualifications, most significantly of which include residence in the Islamic Republic of Iran, holding Iranian nationality, minimum bachelor degree or equivalent qualification, acquaintance with English, having no criminal record as certified by national judicial bodies or other competent authorities.
- ³ **Apart from being already active in football, General Secretary must have at least four years' experience of management in the field of sports as described in Annexe 1 below.**
- ⁴ He shall be responsible for:
 - a) implementing decisions passed by the General Assembly and Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
 - b) attending the General Assembly and meetings of the Executive Committee and the standing and ad-hoc committees;
 - c) organising the General Assembly and meetings of the Executive Committee and other bodies;
 - d) compiling the minutes for the meetings of the General Assembly, Executive Committee and standing and ad-hoc committees;
 - e) Managing and supervising financial affairs, properties and possessions of IRIFF in accordance with relevant regulations.
 - f) the correspondences of IRIFF;
 - g) relations with the Members, Leagues, committees, FIFA, Confederations, other FIFA Member Associations and other national and international sports organization;
 - h) organising the general secretariat;
 - i) the appointment and dismissal of staff working in the general secretariat in coordination with the President;
 - j) providing the electoral committees with logistic and operative support for the elections.
- ⁵ Any additional responsibilities and duties assigned to the General Secretary shall be stipulated in the Internal Organisation Regulations of IRIFF.

⁶ The General Secretary may not be a General Assembly delegate or a member of any body of IRIFF. The General Secretary may not have any function at any Member or stakeholder of IRIFF, or any other function in IRIFF itself.

⁷ **The General Secretariat consists of the following departments: administrative affairs, finance, international competitions, protocol, marketing and TV, futsal, women, beach soccer, education, referees, medical, legal, national teams, public relations, international relations, youth, fair play and social responsibility, strategic, IT and membership and clients. The General Secretary appoints executive and coordination deputy, support deputy and required consultants. Increasing or decreasing the number of department and the posts within the general secretariat is possible on the proposal of General Secretary, approval of the President and ratification of the Executive Committee.**

⁸ Whenever the position of General Secretary or any other position within IRIFF becomes vacant for whatever reasons e.g. resignation, dismissal, expulsion, death or suspension, the President shall appoint an interim replacement for the related position for a maximum period of three months, unless otherwise specified in these Statutes.

⁹ Security is under President's supervision. In the event of President's absence, security is under supervision of General Secretary.

¹⁰ Employment contracts of IRIFF shall come into force once jointly signed by the President and General Secretary.

Article 68 Arbitration

¹ Disputes in the Association or disputes affecting Leagues, members of Leagues, Clubs, members of Clubs, Players, and Officials may only be referred in the last instance (i.e. after exhaustion of all internal channels within IRIFF) to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which shall settle the dispute definitively to the exclusion of any ordinary court, unless expressly prohibited by the legislation in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

² Disputes of international dimension arising from or related to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA or AFC may only be submitted in the last instance to CAS as specified in the Statutes of FIFA and of AFC.

Article 69 Jurisdiction

¹ IRIFF shall have jurisdiction on internal national disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging or affiliated to IRIFF.

² FIFA and/or AFC shall have jurisdiction on international disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to different associations and/or confederations, in accordance with the relevant regulations.

³ IRIFF shall ensure its full compliance and that of all those subject to its jurisdiction with any final decision passed by a FIFA body, an AFC body, and CAS.

Article **70** Financial period

¹ The financial period of IRIFF shall be one year and shall begin on Mordad 1st of the Iranian Calendar (23 July of the Gregorian Calendar) and end on Tir 31st of the Iranian Calendar (22 July of the Gregorian Calendar).

² The revenue and expenses of IRIFF shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. IRIFF's major duties in the future shall be guaranteed through the creation of reserves.

³ The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up financial statements, plan and budget annual consolidated accounts of IRIFF with its subsidiaries by 20 November.

Article **71** Revenue

The revenue of IRIFF arises specifically from:

- a) Members' annual subscriptions;
 - b) receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which IRIFF is entitled;
 - c) fines imposed by the authorised bodies;
 - d) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by IRIFF;
 - e) donations;
 - f) any other revenue related to football activities.
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Article **72** Expenses

IRIFF bears:

- a) the expenses stipulated in the budget;
 - b) other expenses approved by the General Assembly and expenses that the Executive Committee is entitled to incur within the scope of its authority;
 - c) all other expenses in keeping with the objectives pursued by IRIFF.
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Article **73** Independent and external auditors

The independent and external auditors appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Executive Committee shall audit the approved financial statements and accounts on a yearly basis in accordance with the appropriate principles of accounting and present a report to the General Assembly every year. The auditors shall be appointed for a period of **two years**. This mandate may be renewed.

Article **74** **Treasurer**

¹ The treasurer is appointed for four years. He shall be responsible for:

- a) Overseeing financial affairs
- b) Overseeing the maintenance of IRIFF properties
- c) The official signatories of all documents, commercial documents and papers (cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange), negotiable instruments and binding instruments are jointly the President and treasurer

² The treasurer shall have minimum bachelor's degree in accounting or financial management and shall have no criminal records as certified by national judicial bodies or other competent authorities. He shall have minimum eight years of experience in financial management. He shall be domiciled in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and must be an Iranian national.

Article **75** **Membership subscriptions**

¹ Membership subscriptions are due prior to the commencement of the competitions. The annual subscription for new Members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the General Assembly at which they are admitted.

² The General Assembly shall fix the amount of the annual subscription every year on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

³ The Executive Committee decided annually on the portion payable to the Regional Associations which is raised from membership subscriptions of their own province.

Article **76** **Settlement**

IRIFF may debit any Member's assets to settle claims.

Article **77** **Competitions Entry Fee**

IRIFF may demand Members the entry fee to the competitions.

Article **78** Competitions

- ¹ IRIFF organises and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territory:
 - a) All football, futsal and beach soccer competitions in league, centralized and knock-out formats, in all levels and age categories for men and women.
 - b) All international competitions whose management and organisation has been delegated by FIFA and/or AFC to IRIFF within its jurisdiction including but not limited to: AFC Champions League, FIFA World Cup qualifiers, AFC Asian Cup qualifiers, etc.
 - ² The Executive Committee may delegate to IRIFF's subordinate Leagues the authority to organise competitions [e.g. by means of a proper and comprehensive agreement for elite football]. The competitions organised by the Leagues shall not interfere with those competitions organised by IRIFF. Competitions organised by IRIFF shall take priority.
 - ³ The Executive Committee may issue special regulations to this end.
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Article **79** Club licensing

The Executive Committee of IRIFF will set up regulations regarding a club licensing system governing the participation of Clubs in the competitions of IRIFF, in compliance with the minimum requirements of the club licensing system as set up by the AFC in conformity with the FIFA Club Licensing Regulations.

Article **80** Rights

- ¹ IRIFF and its Members are 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 and place. 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, logo and rights arising under copyright law.
- ² The Executive Committee shall decide how and to what extent these rights are utilised and draw up special regulations to this end.

Article **81** Authorisation

IRIFF and its Members 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, and without any restrictions as to content, time, place, and technical and legal aspects.

VII. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

Article **82** International matches and competitions

¹ The authority for organising international matches and competitions between representative teams and between Leagues, Club teams and/or scratch teams lies solely with FIFA, the Confederation(s) and/or the Association(s) concerned. No such match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of FIFA, the Confederation(s) and/or the Association(s) concerned in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

² IRIFF is bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

Article **83** Contacts

IRIFF, its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents shall not play matches or make sporting contact with Associations that are not members of FIFA or with provisional members of a Confederation without the approval of FIFA.

Article **84** Approval

¹ Clubs, Leagues or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to IRIFF may only join another Association with the authorisation of IRIFF, the other Association, the respective Confederation(s) and FIFA.

² Clubs, Leagues or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to IRIFF cannot participate in competitions on the territory of another Association without the authorisation of IRIFF, the other Association(s), FIFA and the respective Confederation(s) according to the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

Article **85** Unforeseen contingencies and force majeure

The Executive Committee shall have the power to decide on all cases of force majeure and on all matters not provided for in these Statutes, such decisions to be made according to right and justice, taking into account the relevant regulations of FIFA and the AFC.

Article **86** Dissolution

¹ Any decision relating to the dissolution of IRIFF requires a majority of two-thirds of all of the Members of IRIFF, which must be obtained at a General Assembly specially convened for the purpose.

² If IRIFF is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to the National Olympic Committee of IR Iran. A five-person task force proposed by the Executive Committee and ratified by the last General Assembly shall oversee the National Olympic Committee of IR Iran for holding these assets as a trustee in accordance with the relevant professional duties until IRIFF is re-established. The final General Assembly may, however, choose another recipient for the assets on the basis of a two-thirds majority.

Article **87** Transitory legal form

IRIFF shall be defined, as foreseen in art. 1 par. 1 above, as an autonomous non-profit non-governmental entity with legal personality, established in compliance with the legislation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This new legal form shall:

- (i) come into effect within 1 year following the elections of a new IRIFF executive committee which are scheduled by the end of 2020; and*
- (ii) be the result of a review of the national sports law by the Iranian government and Parliament in collaboration with FIFA and AFC.*

Until the relevant review of the national sports law is completed within the given timeline, IRIFF shall be legally defined as an institution with an independent legal personality.

Article **88** Enforcement

These Statutes were adopted at the General Assembly in Tehran on 28 Nov. 2020 and will come into force on 28 Nov. 2020.

Annexe 1

Sports management experience

- 1 Wherever sports management is referred to in the Statutes of IRIFF, it shall mean the background of the relevant persons as follows:
 - a) Member of the executive committee of a sports federation, a club, a provincial sport association or the NOC; or
 - b) Member of a (standing or independent) committee of a sports federation; or
 - c) Senior management within the administration of a sports federation, a club, a provincial sport association, the NOC or the Ministry of Sports.

- 2 The following shall be considered equal to four (4) years of sports management experience:

Players:
 - a) Played at least four (4) seasons in professional men's league, or women's league, or futsal league; or
 - b) Played in men, women, futsal or beach soccer national team.
Coaches:
 - a) Coached at least four (4) seasons in professional men's league, or women's league, or futsal league; or
 - b) Coached men, women, futsal or beach soccer national team.
Referees:
 - a) Refereed at least four (4) seasons in professional men's league, or women's league, or futsal league; or
 - b) Referee on international list for at least four (4) years.

- 3 The above background shall be verified through:
 - a) The official career assignment for government positions
 - b) Certificate of assignment for sports positions (federations, provincial associations, clubs, Olympic Committee, FIFA and Confederation)
 - c) Any persons for whom this Annexe is applicable for, may not nominate themselves for any positions to be filled within IRIFF bodies as long as they are employed by government and military forces as general director, equivalent position or higher. Such candidates must officially resign from their positions at the time of registration for elections.