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## DEFINITIONS

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**The terms given below denote the following:**

**AFC:** The Asian Football Confederation.

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

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

**CAS (TAS):** Court of Arbitration for Sport (Tribunal Arbitral du Sport) in Lausanne (Switzerland).

**Club:** a Member of the QFA.

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

**Executive Committee:** the executive body of the QFA.

**FIFA:** Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

**General Assembly:** the supreme body of the QFA.

**Groups of Clubs:** any other organization, different from the QSLM, subordinate to and recognized by the QFA.

**IFAB:** the International Football Association Board.

**Intermediary:** a natural or legal person registered with the QFA who/which for a fee or free of charge, represents players and/or clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding an employment contract or represents clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding a transfer agreement.

**Match Agent:** defined in accordance with the respective applicable FIFA regulations.

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

**Multi-Sports Club:** a Member of the QFA.

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

**Officials:** all board members, committee members, coaches, referees and attendants as well as other people responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters at QFA, a League, a Club or a Member of the QFA.

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

**Player:** a player registered with the QFA, as well as a player playing with the QFA national team(s).

**QFA:** The Qatar Football Association.

**QADC:** the Qatar Anti-Doping Commission established by the QOC to carry out the anti-doping functions as the independent Anti-Doping Organisation for Qatar, including the Qatar Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel and Qatar Anti-Doping Appeal Panel.

**QOC:** The Qatar Olympic Committee.

**QSAT:** The independent and duly constituted Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal in the State of Qatar.

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

**WADA:** the World Anti-Doping Agency in Montreal (Canada).

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



## I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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### Article 1 Establishment and Nature

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- 1 The Qatar Football Association was established in 1960 under the name of "QATAR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION" with its headquarters in Doha (State of Qatar). It is a special organization of public benefit, in compliance with the legislation of the State of Qatar, which has legal status. Qatar Football Association is a national non-profitable and an individually independent sports association. It is completely independent when practicing its legal capacities subject to the basic system. It is formed for an unlimited period. The location of the QFA can be changed by the General Assembly.
- 2 The Qatar Football Association is a Member of FIFA, AFC and QOC.
- 3 The logo of the Qatar Football Association is

The Logo	The logo with writing (or any variation thereof from time to time)
	

- 4 The abbreviation of the Qatar Football Association is Q.F.A. or QFA.
- 5 The logo and abbreviation are belonging to the Qatar Football Association and may not be used, except with prior written authorization.

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### Article 2 Aims and Objectives

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- 1 The aims of the Qatar Football Association are to manage the affairs of the sport of football in the State of Qatar in all aspects. The QFA shall have the right to take all necessary actions, exploit all direct and indirect means which assist in advancing its aims, according to applied regulations and rules.
- 2 The objectives of the Qatar Football Association are:
  - a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of the State of Qatar in every way in which the QFA shall think proper;
  - b) to organize competitions in Association Football in all its forms at a national level, apart from the organization of competitions under the area of authority conceded to the QSLM by the Executive Committee as specified in these Statutes;
  - c) to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
  - d) to protect the interests of its Members;
  - e) to promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardise

the integrity of matches, competitions, Players, Officials and Members or give rise to abuse of Association Football, futsal or beach soccer;

- f) to strengthen friendship and respect ties between Qatari Officials and Players and their counterparts in other countries through competitions they are participating in;
- g) to co-operate with or assist any Member in any way which the QFA shall think proper, particularly by providing advices and consultancy;
- h) to provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of the QFA;
- i) to respect, observe and insure the application of the statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, of AFC, of QOC and of the QFA as well as the QADC Anti-Doping Policy;
- j) to prevent any infringement of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, of AFC and the QFA as well as the Laws of the Game issued by the IFAB and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players;
- k) to prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardize the integrity of matches or competitions or give rise to abuse of Association Football;
- l) to combat the use of prohibited substances as stipulated by FIFA, QADC and WADA.
- m) to prepare and supervise the selection and national team to represent the State of Qatar in Olympic, international, continental and regional tournaments and championships;
- n) to control and supervise all friendly football matches of all forms played throughout the territory of the State of Qatar and to control and supervise Association Football, futsal and beach soccer at national level and to control and supervise all forms of international football matches played throughout the territory of Qatar, in accordance with the relevant Statutes and regulations of FIFA and of the Confederations;
- o) to manage international sporting relations connected with Association Football in all its forms;
- p) to co-operate with the International Football Association Board in all matters relating to International or other Competitions, or otherwise relating to the Game of Football or the Rules or Regulations affecting the same;
- q) to host competitions and matches at international and other levels;
- r) to organize studies, researchers and conferences related to Association Football and its affairs.

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Article **3**    **Neutrality and Non-Discrimination**

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<sup>1</sup> The QFA is neutral in matters of politics and religion.

<sup>2</sup> 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, language, religion, politics, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.

<sup>3</sup> Anyone who publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone in a defamatory manner on account of race, color, language, religion or ethnic origin, or perpetrates any other discriminatory and/or contemptuous act, will be sanctioned in accordance with the provisions of the QFA Disciplinary Code which shall comply with the FIFA and AFC Disciplinary Code regarding non-discrimination.

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Article **4**    **Legislation**

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The legislation applicable to the QFA is:

- a) The QFA's Statutes.
- b) The QFA's Regulations.
- c) The Laws of the Game issue by the IFAB.
- d) The FIFA and AFC Statutes and Regulations.
- e) The Qatar Anti-Doping Commission (QADC) Anti-Doping Policy and the WADA Anti-Doping Regulations.

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Article **5**    **Delimitation of Competences**

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

<sup>2</sup> The Qatar Olympic Committee shall not have any control or supervisory authority on the Qatar Football Association which has got its complete independence as regards execution of its legal authorities subject to the basic system.

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Article **6**    **Promoting Friendly Relations**

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

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

<sup>3</sup> The QFA shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of the QFA.

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Article **7** **Players**

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- <sup>1</sup> The status of Players and the provisions for their transfer, as well as questions related to these matters, shall be regulated by the Executive Committee of the QFA in accordance with the current FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.
- <sup>2</sup> Players shall be registered in accordance with the regulations of the QFA.

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Article **8** **Laws of the Game**

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- <sup>1</sup> The QFA and each of its Members play Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB. Only IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.
- <sup>2</sup> The QFA and each of its Members play futsal and beach soccer in compliance with the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game issued by FIFA. Only FIFA may lay down and alter the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.

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Article **9** **Conduct of Bodies, Members and Officials**

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The bodies of the QFA, Members and Officials of the QFA must observe the statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, of AFC and of the QFA, as well as the QADC Anti-Doping Policy in their activities.

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Article **10** **Official Language**

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- <sup>1</sup> The official language of the QFA shall be Arabic. Official documents and texts shall be written in this language.
- <sup>2</sup> The official language at the General Assembly shall be Arabic.

## **II. MEMBERSHIP**

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Article **11** **Admission, Suspension and Expulsion**

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- <sup>1</sup> The General Assembly shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.
- <sup>2</sup> Membership may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of the QFA.

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

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## Article **12** Composition

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- <sup>1</sup> The Members of the QFA are:
- a) Clubs affiliated to the QFA;
  - b) QSLM;
  - c) other leagues or Groups of Clubs subordinate to and recognized by the QFA.
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## Article **13** Application for Membership

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<sup>1</sup> Applications shall be addressed in form of an official letter to the General Secretary of the QFA.

<sup>2</sup> The application for membership must be accompanied by the following mandatory items which shall be approved by the applicant's officials:

- a) The official name, date of establishment, contact details and two copies of its statutes and regulations;
- b) a declaration that its headquarters and playground or venue activity are located and registered, if any, in the territory of the State of Qatar;
- c) a declaration that it will always comply with the statutes, regulations and decisions of QFA, FIFA and AFC and ensure that these are also respected by its own Members, Clubs, Officials and Players;
- d) a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
- e) a declaration that it will not take matters of interpretation and application of the FIFA, AFC and QFA Statutes, regulations, decisions and directives to Ordinary Courts, unless the FIFA, the AFC or the QFA regulations provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts;
- f) a declaration that it recognizes the Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal (QSAT) and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, as specified in these Statutes;
- g) a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of the State of Qatar;
- h) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;
- i) a list of its Officials, their name, address, title and position, specifying those who are authorized signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- j) a declaration that it undertakes to organize or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of the QFA;
- k) a copy of the minutes of its last general assembly or constitutional meeting;
- l) its proclamation number.

<sup>3</sup> Application should be submitted at least forty-five (45) days prior to the General Assembly's meetings date.

<sup>4</sup> This article shall not affect the status of existing Members.

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Article **14 Procedure of Admission**

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<sup>1</sup> The procedure for admission shall be regulated by special regulations approved by the Executive Committee of the QFA.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted by the General Assembly of QFA. Its delegates are eligible to vote and be elected with immediate effect.

<sup>4</sup> In case of rejection of any application for membership, the reasons of the rejection shall be communicated to the applicant by official registered letter within sixty (60) days. The applicant may reapply for membership after abolition of the reasons for rejection of the first application.

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Article **15 Members' Rights**

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<sup>1</sup> The Members of the QFA have the following rights:

- a) to take part in the General Assembly of the QFA, to know its agenda in advance, to be called to the General Assembly within the prescribed time and to exercise their voting rights;
- b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly provided that such proposals have the support of at least one-fifth of the Members;
- c) to nominate candidates for all bodies of the QFA to be elected;
- d) to be informed of the affairs of the QFA through the official bodies of the QFA;
- e) to take part in competitions and/or other sports activities organized by the QFA;
- f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of the QFA.

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

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Article **16 Members' Obligations**

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<sup>1</sup> The Members of the QFA have the following obligations:



- a) to comply fully with the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the QFA, FIFA and AFC, the QADC at all times as well as with the awards of the Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal (QSAT) and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
- b) to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies;
- c) to take part in competitions and other sports activities organized by the QFA;
- d) to pay their membership subscriptions;
- e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by IFAB and the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as laid down by FIFA and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;
- f) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the QFA or QSLM, FIFA and AFC shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate Arbitration Tribunal or judicial body of FIFA, AFC and QFA and that any recourse to Ordinary Courts is prohibited;
- g) to communicate to the QFA any amendment of its statutes and regulations as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorized signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- h) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognized or with Members that have been suspended or expelled;
- i) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behavior as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
- j) to administer a register of their members which shall regularly be updated;
- k) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of the QFA, FIFA and AFC;
- l) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes of the QFA.

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

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## Article 17 Suspension

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

- a) it has committed serious breach of AFC, FIFA and/or QFA Statutes, regulations, directives and/or decisions made under them;
- b) it fails to fulfill its financial obligations towards QFA, AFC and/or FIFA;
- c) third-party influence in the activities and the autonomy of the member regardless whether this was the fault of the member concerned; or
- d) non-participation in sporting competitions or any other mandatory activity of the QFA for three years.

<sup>2</sup> The motion for suspension must be justified. It will be sent to the Members of the QFA along with the agenda. The Member concerned has the right to speak in its own defense and submit a written statement of defense. The decision shall be passed only after verification of the truth of allegations.

<sup>3</sup> A suspension shall be confirmed at the next General Assembly by the three-quarter majority of the votes taken. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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Article **18 Expulsion**

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<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly may expel a Member if:

- a) it has seriously breached an obligation which may lead to a suspension according to these Statutes;
- b) it has committed very serious breaches of the AFC, FIFA and/or QFA Statutes, regulations, directives and/or decisions made under them;
- c) it brings a dispute to an Ordinary Court, except in cases where the FIFA, AFC or QFA regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts.

<sup>2</sup> The motion for dismissal must be justified. It will be sent to the Members of the QFA along with the agenda. The Member concerned has the right to speak in its own defense and submit a written statement of defense. The decision shall be passed only after verification of the truth of allegations.

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

<sup>4</sup> The Member dismissed must be relieved of its functions with immediate effect and must fulfill its financial obligations towards the QFA, QOC, QSLM and the other Members of the QFA.

<sup>5</sup> Applications of re-affiliation of applicant whose membership had been abrogated may only be considered after one calendar year has elapsed from the date of the decision of expulsion.

<sup>6</sup> The Member that is expelled has no right to claim any part of the association properties. It must return to the QFA any documents, record or properties under its disposal, care or control.

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Article **19 Resignation**

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<sup>1</sup> A Member may resign from the QFA with effect from the end of the current season. Written notice of resignation must reach the General Secretary no later than six (6) months before the end of the current season.

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

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

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

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

<sup>2</sup> The affiliated Clubs, QSLM and other Groups of Clubs of the QFA shall take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their eventual corporate structure.

<sup>3</sup> In any case, no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club, QSLM or other Groups of Clubs whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized.

### **III. HONORARY PRESIDENTS AND HONORARY MEMBERS**

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Article **21** **Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members**

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<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly may bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member upon any persons for meritorious service to football in the State of Qatar.

<sup>2</sup> The Executive Committee shall make these nominations.

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

### **IV. ORGANIZATION**

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Article **22** **Bodies of the QFA**

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<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly is the supreme and legislative body.

<sup>2</sup> The Executive Committee is the executive body.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> The General Secretariat is the administrative body.

<sup>5</sup> The Judicial Bodies are the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee.

<sup>6</sup> The Club Licensing Bodies are in charge of the club licensing system within the QFA.

<sup>7</sup> The Electoral Committees are in charge of organising and supervising the election process.

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

## **A. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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### **Article 23 Definition and Composition**

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<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly is the meeting at which all of the Members of QFA regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of the QFA. Only a General Assembly that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.

<sup>2</sup> A General Assembly may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary Assembly.

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

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

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

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### **Article 24 Delegates and Votes**

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<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly is composed by the delegates of Members. The number of delegates is allocated as follows:

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> The members of the Executive Committee, the General Secretary, the honorary president and honorary members shall take part in the General Assembly and participate in all discussion without voting rights. During their terms of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed as delegates at the General Assembly for a Member.

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Article **25 Areas of Authority**

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The General Assembly shall deal with the following matters:

- a) adopting or amending the Statutes and the Electoral Code;
- b) appointing Members to check the minutes and approving the minutes of the last meeting;
- c) electing the President, the members of the Executive Committee and the Electoral Committees;
- d) appointing the scrutineers;
- e) appointing the independent auditors;
- f) approving the financial statements;
- g) approving the budget;
- h) approving the President's annual activity report;
- i) fixing the membership subscriptions;
- j) deciding, upon the nomination of the Executive Committee, whether to bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member;
- k) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- l) revoking the mandate of one or a number of members of a body of the QFA;
- m) dissolving the QFA;
- n) passing decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with these Statutes;
- o) determining the membership fees;

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Article **26 Quorum of the General Assembly**

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<sup>1</sup> A General Assembly meeting shall only be valid if the majority (more than 50%) of the Members who are entitled to vote are represented.

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

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

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Article **27** Decisions of the General Assembly

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a majority (more than 50%) of the Members entitled to vote is sufficient for a vote to be valid. The number of valid votes counted shall decide the majority. Abstentions are disregarded in calculating the majority.

<sup>2</sup> A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count, unless the Statutes, the Executive Committee or the majority (more than 50%) of the General Assembly require a secret ballot. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favor of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll.

<sup>3</sup> If a decision shall be reached by means of secret ballot, spoiled, illegible or blank ballot papers or any other forms of abstentions are disregarded in calculating the majority. Spelling mistakes shall result in the invalidity of a vote only if it is not possible to determine with certainty the intention of vote.

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Article **28** Elections

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<sup>1</sup> Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. Election process shall be conducted in accordance with the QFA Electoral Code.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise specified in these Statutes, for a person to be elected, a majority (more than 50%) of the votes recorded and valid is necessary.

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

<sup>4</sup> For the election of the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the Electoral Committees, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) or the list which receives the most votes shall be elected.

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

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Article **29** Ordinary General Assembly

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- <sup>1</sup> The Ordinary General Assembly shall be held every year.
- <sup>2</sup> The Executive Committee shall fix the place and the date. The Members shall be notified in writing at least two (2) months in advance.
- <sup>3</sup> The formal convocation shall be made by the General Secretary by registered mail, fax, email or hand delivery at least thirty (30) days before the date of the General Assembly. This convocation shall be sent to the Members and contain the following enclosures:
  - a) the agenda,
  - b) the President's annual activity report,
  - c) the financial statements and the auditors' report,
  - d) the minutes of the previous General Assembly,
  - e) the proposals submitted by at least 1/5 of the Members to the General Secretary (if applicable),
  - f) the name of the candidates for elections (if applicable), and
  - g) any other relevant documents.
- <sup>4</sup> The formal convocation shall be sent by the General Secretary, or in his absence one member of the Executive Committee.

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Article **30** Ordinary General Assembly Agenda

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- <sup>1</sup> The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda. Any proposal that one-fifth of the Members wish to submit to the General Assembly shall be sent to the General Secretary in writing, with a brief explanation, at least forty-five (45) days before the date of the General Assembly.
- <sup>2</sup> The General Assembly agenda shall include the following mandatory items:
  - a) a declaration that the General Assembly has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes of the QFA;
  - b) approval of the agenda;
  - c) an address by the President;
  - d) appointment of Members to check the minutes;
  - e) appointment of scrutineers;
  - f) suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable);
  - g) approval of the minutes of the preceding General Assembly;
  - h) appointment of the independent auditors upon recommendation of the Executive Committee (if applicable);
  - i) approval of the President's activity report (containing the activities since the last General Assembly);

- j) presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement;
- k) approval of the financial statements;
- l) admission for membership (if applicable);
- m) approval of the budget;
- n) votes on proposals for amendments to the Statutes (if applicable);
- o) discussion of proposals submitted by at least 1/5 of the Members and/or the Executive Committee (if applicable);
- p) dismissal of a person or a body (if applicable);
- q) election of the President and members of the Executive Committee (if applicable);
- r) election of the members of the Electoral Committees upon proposal of the Executive Committee (if applicable);
- s) any further items proposed by the Members or the Executive Committee of the QFA.

<sup>3</sup> The General Assembly shall not make a decision on any point not included in the agenda.

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

<sup>5</sup> Shall the agenda not be completed for any reasons, the session shall be extended to some other date which shall be fixed by the Executive Committee and notified by official letters by the General Secretary. Decisions taken so far by the General Assembly shall be valid and effective.

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Article **31** **Extraordinary General Assembly**

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<sup>1</sup> The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary General Assembly at any time.

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

<sup>3</sup> The Members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda by registered mail at least fifteen (15) days before the date of an Extraordinary General Assembly.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> The agenda of an Extraordinary General Assembly may not be altered.



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Article **32 Amendments to the Statutes and the Electoral Code**

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- <sup>1</sup> The General Assembly is responsible for amending the Statutes and the Electoral Code.
- <sup>2</sup> Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes and/or the Electoral Code must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the General Secretary by a Member or by the Executive Committee. A proposal submitted by a Member is valid, provided it has been supported in writing by at least 30% of the Members that have the right to vote.
- <sup>3</sup> For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes to be valid, a majority (more than 50%) of the Members eligible to vote must be present.
- <sup>4</sup> A proposal for the amendment to the Statutes shall be adopted only if two-thirds (2/3) of the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it. For a vote on an amendment to the Electoral Code to be valid, a majority (more than 50%) of the votes recorded and valid is sufficient.

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Article **33 Minutes**

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- <sup>1</sup> The General Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the General Assembly. The minutes shall be checked by those Members designated and finally approved at the next General Assembly. In particular, anything related to voting and votes registration procedures during the General Assembly meetings shall be recorded in the minutes.

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Article **34 Effective Dates of Decisions**

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

***B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE***

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Article **35 Composition**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Executive Committee is the executive body of the QFA. The Executive Committee consists of seven (7) members:
  - 1 President
  - 6 members (of which one member shall be appointed as the Vice President in accordance with Article 44 paragraph 2)
- <sup>2</sup> The President and the members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly. Every candidate in the election of Executive Committee members must be proposed by at least one (1) Member.

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

<sup>4</sup> The members of the Executive Committee shall be Qatari citizens and not younger than twenty-one (21) years old. They shall preferably have already been active in football, must not have been previously found guilty of a criminal offence. If they have a membership in any other sports or social organizations, it shall not have been abrogated unless if the membership had been restored.

<sup>5</sup> A Member of the QFA shall not have more than two (2) representatives in the Executive Committee, including the President.

<sup>6</sup> Candidature must be sent to the general secretariat of the QFA at least forty-five (45) days before the General Assembly. The official list of candidates (nomination letter of the Member and a brief description of the nominee) must be passed to the Members of the QFA along with the agenda for the General Assembly at which the Executive Committee will be elected.

<sup>7</sup> If a position or up to 50% of the positions of the Executive Committee becomes vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill the position(s) in question until the next General Assembly, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining term of the mandate.

<sup>8</sup> In the event that more than 50% of the positions of the Executive Committee become vacant, an extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened within sixty (60) days in order to elect the replacements for the remaining term of the mandate.

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Article **36 Meetings**

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<sup>1</sup> The Executive Committee shall meet whenever necessary but at least four (4) times a year.

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

<sup>3</sup> The President decides in principle the date, place and time of the meeting. . If the President does not convene the requested meeting by the aforementioned deadline, the other members of the Executive Committee shall convene it themselves.

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

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

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 adopt and issue the rules and regulations of the QFA, unless otherwise specified in these Statutes;
- c) shall prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly of the QFA;
- d) shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President;
- e) shall appoint the chairman, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees;
- f) shall appoint the chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Judicial Bodies;
- g) shall propose the chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Electoral Committees;
- h) may decide to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary at any time;
- i) shall compile the regulations for the organization of standing committees and ad-hoc committees;
- j) shall recognize the QSLM as well as review the Statutes and regulations of the Clubs, QSLM and other Groups of Clubs affiliated to the QFA;
- k) shall recommend independent auditors to the General Assembly;
- l) shall provide the General Assembly with a proposal regarding the admission, suspension or exclusion of membership;
- m) shall decide the place and dates of and the number of teams participating in the competitions of the QFA;
- n) shall appoint the coaches for the representative teams and other technical staff;
- o) shall approve regulations stipulating how the QFA shall be organized internally;
- p) shall ensure that the Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
- q) may dismiss a person or body or suspend a Member of the QFA provisionally until the next General Assembly;
- r) may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of the QFA or third parties;
- s) shall appoint replacements for vacancies in the bodies of QFA, in accordance with these statutes.

- <sup>1</sup> The Executive Committee shall not engage in valid debate unless four (4) of its members are present. If the quorum is not met, the meeting shall be postponed to a new date which

shall be fixed within twenty-four (24) hours of the original date with the same agenda. To be valid the second meeting shall be attended by no less than three (3) of the members.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Any member of the Executive Committee may request a secret vote.

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

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

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Article **39 Dismissal of a Person or Body**

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

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

<sup>3</sup> The person or body in question has the right to speak in his or its own defense.

<sup>4</sup> If the motion for dismissal is upheld, the General Assembly or Executive Committee shall reach a decision by means of secret ballot. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds of the valid votes is required.

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

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Article **40 Cessation, Dismissal and Resignation of a member of the Executive Committee**

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<sup>1</sup> The membership of the Executive Committee ceases in the following cases:

a) death or disability of the member;

- b) three (3) consecutive absences or five (5) non-consecutive absences at the Executive Committee' meeting without an excuse that has been accepted by the Executive Committee;
  - c) loss of the legal eligibility of the member;
  - d) disciplinary decision taken against the member for disgraceful reasons to his honor or honesty;
  - e) commission of an act which disgrace the dignity of the QFA or other organizations or defame its reputation.
- 2 Shall one of the event mentioned in letters b) to e) be met, the dismissal is ruled by Article 39 of the Statutes.
- 3 A member of the Executive Committee who has been dismissed may not be selected for any committee at the QFA, unless the reason of his dismissal has been eliminated.
- 4 A member of the Executive Committee may resign with notice of resignation to the General Secretary.

## **C. PRESIDENT**

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### Article **41** President

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- 1 The President represents the QFA legally. He is the official leader of the Qatar Football Association.
- 2 He is primarily responsible for:
- a) implementing the decisions passed by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee with the assistance of the General Secretary and the general secretariat;
  - b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of the QFA in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
  - c) supervising the work of the general secretariat;
  - d) relations between the QFA and its Members, FIFA, AFC, QOC, other associations political bodies and other organizations;
  - e) convening the meetings of the Executive Committee and compiling the agenda for such meetings.
- 3 Only the President may propose the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary.
- 4 The President shall preside over the General Assembly and the Executive Committee meetings and those committees of which he has been appointed chairman.
- 5 The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote.
- 6 If the President is absent or unavailable, the Vice-President shall deputize.
- 7 Any additional powers of the President shall be regulated by the Executive Committee in the internal organization regulations of the QFA.

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Article **42** **Candidates for the Office of the President**

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- <sup>1</sup> The President shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of four (4) years. His mandate shall begin after the end of the General Assembly which has elected him. A President may be re-elected.
- <sup>2</sup> For the election of the President, two-thirds of the votes recorded and valid are necessary in the first ballot. In the second and any other requisite ballot, a majority of the votes recorded and valid (more than 50%) is sufficient. If there are more than two (2) candidates, the candidate that obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two (2) candidates are left.
- <sup>3</sup> Only Members of the QFA may propose candidates for the office of President. Members shall notify the general secretariat in writing of the name of a candidate for the presidency of the QFA at least forty-five (45) days before the date of the General Assembly.
- <sup>4</sup> The general secretariat shall notify the Members of the names of the proposed candidates at least thirty (30) days before the date of the General Assembly.
- <sup>5</sup> If the President is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his official function, the Vice-President shall represent him until the next General Assembly. This General Assembly shall elect a new President, if necessary.

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Article **43** **Representation and Signature**

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- <sup>1</sup> The President represents the QFA legally.
- <sup>2</sup> The President, the Vice-President, the General Secretary and other persons authorized by the Executive Committee are entitled to sign legally binding documents for the QFA, provided they are duly registered as authorized signatories in accordance with Qatari law and the applicable regulations. The Executive Committee may set up internal organisation directives regarding the signature.

***D. VICE-PRESIDENT***

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Article **44** **Vice-President**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Vice-President shall assist the President in all issues assigned to him related to the QFA and shall replace him in case of his absence or unavailability.
- <sup>2</sup> The Vice President, who shall be an existing member of the Executive Committee, shall be appointed by the Executive Committee among its members.

***E. GENERAL SECRETARY AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT***

- <sup>1</sup> The General Secretary is the chief executive of the QFA.
- <sup>2</sup> The General Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee on the proposal of the President, on the basis of an agreement governed by private law and shall have the necessary professional qualifications.
- <sup>3</sup> The General Secretary shall be responsible for:
  - a) implementing decisions passed by the General Assembly and Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
  - b) preparing the Agenda of the General Assembly and submitting to the President for supervision;
  - c) attending the General Assembly and the meetings of the Executive Committee, the standing committees and ad-hoc committees without the right to vote;
  - d) organizing the General Assembly and meetings of the Executive Committee and other bodies;
  - e) compiling the minutes for the meetings of the General Assembly, Executive Committee, the standing committees and ad-hoc committees;
  - f) appointing, dismissing and promoting the staff of the general secretariat and fixing their salaries and wages and imposing administrative sanctions if necessary in accordance with the rules set up by the Executive Committee;
  - g) managing and keeping the accounts of QFA properly;
  - h) overseeing all the operations and program activities of QFA and providing the overall direction of QFA within the guidelines set up by the President and the Executive Committee;
  - i) implementing and recommending improvements to the short, medium and long term strategies under the direction of the Executive Committee and ensure the interests of QFA are met;
  - j) identifying development areas and ways of enhancing the operational and strategic efficiencies and provide leadership to effectively manage operations and programs of QFA;
  - k) the correspondence of the QFA;
  - l) relations with the Members, committees, FIFA, QOC, AFC and other associations;
  - m) organizing the general secretariat;
  - n) proposing managerial staff to the President;
  - o) any other tasks assigned by the Executive Committee.
- <sup>4</sup> The General Secretary may not be a General Assembly delegate.
- <sup>5</sup> The General Secretary reports directly and regularly to the Executive Committee and the President.

- <sup>1</sup> The general secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of the QFA under the direction of the General Secretary. The members of the general secretariat are bound by

the internal organizational regulations of the QFA and shall fulfill the given tasks in the best manner.

<sup>2</sup> In particular, the general secretariat is responsible for:

- a) Management of the daily affairs and workings of the QFA;
- b) Receiving, keeping and arranging the sequence of all incoming correspondence and received affairs for review;
- c) Preparation, arrangement and follow up of necessary works for the meetings of the Executive Committee and General Assembly;
- d) Preparation and follow up all internal and external committees;
- e) Preparation and review of all incoming letters;
- f) Receive and reply to all telephone calls and implement the directives;
- g) Arrange specific meetings, coordinate them and inform about any changes in the specified time;
- h) Keeping correct archive and documents through modern methods;
- i) Type all letters and save them safely.

## **F. STANDING COMMITTEES**

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### **Article 47 Standing Committees**

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<sup>1</sup> The standing committees of the QFA are:

- a) Audit & Compliance Committee;
- b) Organising Committee for Competitions;
- c) National Teams Committee;
- d) Referees' Committee;
- e) Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee;
- f) Players' Status Committee;
- g) Finance Committee;
- h) Financial Control Committee.

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

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

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



<sup>5</sup> Each committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Committee.

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

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

<sup>8</sup> Application shall include brief information about the background of the nominee and shall confirm the nominee's knowledge and experience in the field concerned. Application shall be received by the General Secretary at least two (2) weeks before the date of the relevant meeting of the Executive Committee. In case of resignation of a member of a standing committee, the Executive Committee shall appoint a new member at anytime. Further application procedures may be set up in the regulations of the specific standing committee.

<sup>9</sup> The standing committees shall meet at least four (4) times a year.

<sup>10</sup> Each member of a standing committee has one (1) vote. In case of tie vote, the Chairman has the casting vote.

<sup>11</sup> The minutes of the meetings shall be provided to the members of the standing committee and the Executive Committee within a reasonable time after the date of the meeting. The requests and/or recommendations which require approval of the Executive Committee shall be sent to the Executive Committee in writing.

<sup>12</sup> Each standing committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. The composition, specific duties and powers of the individual standing committees shall be stipulated by way of regulations or decisions of the Executive Committee.

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Article **48** **Audit & Compliance Committee**

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<sup>1</sup> The Audit & Compliance Committee shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting and shall review the external auditors' report at the request of the Executive Committee. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary.

<sup>2</sup> The Audit & Compliance Committee shall assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities for:

- a) the integrity of the QFA's financial statements or any of its affiliated associations, clubs or league;
- b) the QFA's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;
- c) the independent auditor's qualifications and independence; *and*
- d) the performance of the QFA's internal audit function and independent auditors.

<sup>3</sup> The Audit & Compliance Committee shall be responsible for:

- a) Reviewing the adequacy of the QFA's internal control structure;
- b) If necessary, instituting special investigations and, if appropriate, proposing the hire of special counsel or experts to assist;
- c) Recommending the appointment (or reappointment) of the independent auditor;

- d) Conducting post-audit reviews of the financial statements and audit findings, including any significant suggestions for improvements provided to QFA by the independent auditor;
- e) Reviewing the overall performance and fee arrangements of the independent auditor;
- f) Performing other audit oversight functions as requested by the Executive Committee.

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Article **49 Organising Committee for Competitions**

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

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Article **50 National Teams Committee**

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<sup>1</sup> The National Teams Committee shall primarily be responsible for the technical planning and evaluation of the national teams of QFA. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary.

<sup>2</sup> The National Teams Committee shall be responsible for:

- a) Setting the long-term national football strategy that ensures the realization of QFA objectives in achieving advanced international ranking for all its national teams;
- b) Setting the standard for the overall organization of the national teams and to drive and demand ever greater on-pitch and off-pitch results;
- c) Developing plans, programs and projects at all levels (technical, performance and organizational) to enable the effective implementation of a national football strategy and oversee such implementation;
- d) Preparing the annual competitions calendar for all national teams of QFA in full synchronization with FIFA and AFC annual calendars and in coordination with the national teams' managers and the concerned departments at QFA and QSL;
- e) Preparing the national teams' preparation plans (training camps and games) in alignment with the agreed annual competitions calendar and the national teams' managers;
- f) Concluding the search and sourcing of the "A" Team Technical Manager, Olympic Team Technical Manager and the Head Coaches of other age groups teams;
- g) Approving the appointment and termination of the director of the national teams department and supervise his annual performance evaluation process;
- h) Preparing the annual budget of the national teams department and its workforce plan;
- i) Approving the annual marketing and communication plan of the National Teams;
- j) Any other further responsibilities as assigned by QFA Executive Committee.

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Article **51 Referees' Committee**

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<sup>1</sup> The Referees' Committee shall implement the Laws of the Game. It shall appoint the referees for matches in competitions organized by the QFA, organize refereeing matters

within the State of Qatar in collaboration with the administration of the QFA and monitor the education and training of referees.

<sup>2</sup> It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. The members of the Referees' Committee may not be affiliated to any clubs, leagues or any other football association. The Executive Committee shall appoint one of its members as chairman of the Referees' Committee. The deputy chairman and members of the Referees' Committee shall be appointed by the President at the proposal of the chairman of the Referees' Committee.

<sup>3</sup> The duties of the Referees' Committee are defined by the Executive Committee in terms of reference, containing primarily the following rights and duties:

- a) To classify the referees in each category on the basis of their performance in selected matches and propose promotions and demotions;
- b) To appoint referees to matches in competitions organized by QFA or for any other tournaments, whenever requested to do so;
- c) To nominate candidates for the international list issued by FIFA on an annual basis who are eligible to officiate at international matches according to FIFA Regulations governing the registration of international referees, assistant referees, futsal referees and beach soccer referees on FIFA's lists;
- d) To comply with the standard refereeing methods as established by FIFA to ensure uniform implementation of the Laws of the Game;
- e) To utilize uniform criteria for the assessment of referees as established by FIFA;
- f) To approve the referee instructor and assessor panels;
- g) To approve administrative regulations governing refereeing.

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Article **52** **Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee**

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The Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee shall organize futsal and beach soccer competitions and deal with all matters relating to futsal and beach soccer. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary.

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Article **53** **Players' Status Committee**

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<sup>1</sup> The Players' Status Committee shall set up and monitor compliance with transfer regulations in accordance with the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players and determine the status of Players for various competitions of the QFA. The Executive Committee may draw up special regulations or decisions governing the Players' Status Committee's powers of jurisdiction. The Players' Status Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary.

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Article **54** **Finance Committee**

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The Finance Committee shall monitor the financial management and advise the Executive Committee on financial matters and asset management. It shall analyse the budget of the

QFA and the financial statements prepared by the General Secretary and submit them to the Executive Committee for approval.

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Article **55 Financial Control Committee**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Article **56 Ad-hoc Committees**

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

## **G. JUDICIAL BODIES**

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### **Article 57 Judicial Bodies**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Judicial Bodies of the QFA are:
  - a) the Disciplinary Committee;
  - b) the Ethics Committee;
  - c) the Appeal Committee.
- <sup>2</sup> The responsibilities and functions of these bodies shall be stipulated in the Disciplinary Code of the QFA, which shall comply with the FIFA Disciplinary Code and in the Code of Ethics of the QFA, which shall both be issued by the Executive Committee.
- <sup>3</sup> The decision-making powers of other committees remain unaffected.
- <sup>4</sup> The members of the Judicial Bodies may not belong to any other body of the QFA or a Member of the QFA at the same time.
- <sup>5</sup> The term of office of all members of the Judicial Bodies shall be four years. The members may be re-appointed.

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### **Article 58 Disciplinary Committee**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. At least one (1) member of the Disciplinary Committee shall have legal qualifications.
- <sup>2</sup> The Disciplinary Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three (3) members are present. In certain cases, the chairman may rule alone if provided in the Disciplinary Code of the QFA.
- <sup>3</sup> The Disciplinary Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the Disciplinary Code of the QFA or other applicable regulations on Members, Officials, Players, Clubs and Intermediaries and all those subjects to its jurisdiction.
- <sup>4</sup> These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members, persons or body of the QFA and members of the Executive Committee.

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### **Article 59 Ethics Committee**

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

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

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

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Article **60 Appeal Committee**

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee may be appealed to the Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal (QSAT) in accordance with these Statutes and the QSAT Code.

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Article **61 Disciplinary Measures**

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The disciplinary measures are primarily:

<sup>1</sup> for natural and legal persons:

- a) a warning;
- b) a reprimand;
- c) a fine;
- d) the return of awards.

<sup>2</sup> for natural persons:

- a) a caution;
- b) an expulsion;
- c) a match suspension;
- d) a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
- e) a ban from entering a stadium;
- f) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
- g) suspension of a license;
- h) registration cancellation;
- i) other sanctions provided in QFA or QSLM regulations.

<sup>3</sup> for legal persons:

- a) a transfer ban;

- b) playing a match without spectators;
- c) playing a match on neutral territory;
- d) a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- e) annulment of the result of the match;
- f) expulsion;
- g) a forfeit;
- h) deduction of points;
- i) relegation to a lower division;
- j) replay of a match;
- k) withholding of financial entitlements from the QFA or QSLM;
- l) other sanctions provided in QFA or QSLM regulations.

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Article **62 Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal**

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<sup>1</sup> The QFA recognizes the jurisdiction of the independent Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal (QSAT):

a) to resolve all disputes between QFA, its Members, Players, Officials, Intermediaries affiliated to/registered with/licensed by the QFA at the time that the dispute arose (internal national disputes), except those cases specifically excluded in the Statutes or relevant regulations of the QFA; and

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

- i. violations of the Laws of the Game;
- ii. warning or reprimand;
- iii. suspensions of up to four (4) matches or up to three (3) months;
- iv. a fine of up to QAR 200,000.00/- imposed on a club or of up to QAR 100,000.00/- in other cases;
- v. decisions from any other bodies of the QFA.

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

<sup>2</sup> The provisions of the QSAT Code shall apply to the proceedings.

<sup>3</sup> The QFA shall ensure full compliance of its Members, Players, Officials and Intermediaries with the awards passed by the QSAT.

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

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Article **63 Jurisdiction**

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

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

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

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Article **64 Court of Arbitration for Sport**

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

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

## **H. OTHER BODIES**

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Article **65 Club Licensing Bodies**

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The licensing bodies are the Club Licensing Committee (first instance body) and the Club Licensing Appeal Committee (appeal instance body) in charge of the club licensing system within the QFA in accordance with the regulations of QFA or, in case of delegation, the regulations of the QSLM approved by the QFA.

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Article **66 Electoral Committees**

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

## **V. FINANCE**

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Article **67 Financial period**

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<sup>1</sup> The financial period of the QFA shall be one year and shall begin on 1<sup>st</sup> April and end on 31<sup>st</sup> March of the next year.

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

<sup>3</sup> The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of the QFA with its subsidiaries as at 31<sup>st</sup> March.

<sup>4</sup> The accounts shall be stipulated in Qatari riyal.

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Article **68 Revenue and Funds**

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<sup>1</sup> The revenue of the QFA arises specifically from:

- a) Members' annual subscriptions;
- b) Subsidies received from the QOC;
- c) Subsidies received from the other international sports bodies, such as FIFA, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), AFC and all other sources;
- d) receipts generated by internal and international matches organized by the QFA;
- e) receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which the QFA is entitled;
- f) fines imposed by the authorized bodies;
- g) donations, gratuities and legacies, provided they are approved by the Executive Committee;
- h) State subsidies;
- i) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by the QFA and approved by the Executive Committee.

<sup>2</sup> The QFA funds shall be deposited in a national bank recognized in the State of Qatar.

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Article **69 Expenses**

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The QFA bears:

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

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Article **70 Independent Auditors**

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<sup>1</sup> Independent auditors shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the Executive Committee. The independent auditors shall audit the accounts approved by the Finance Committee in accordance with the general principles of

accounting and present a report to the General Assembly. The independent auditors shall be appointed for a period of four (4) years. This mandate may be renewed.

<sup>2</sup> The audited accounts shall be prepared annually by not later than 30 June after the end of the financial period.

<sup>3</sup> The audited accounts shall be sent by the General Secretary to the Executive Committee by no later than 15 July after the end of the financial period.

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

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Article **71** **Membership Subscriptions**

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

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

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Article **72** **Settlements**

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

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Article **73** **Levies**

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

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**VI. COMPETITIONS AND RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS**

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Article **74** **Competitions**

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<sup>1</sup> The QFA organizes and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territory:

- a. Second Division National League;
- b. H.H. the beloved Emir's Cup;
- c. Sheikh Jassim Cup;

- d. Age Categories (U19, U17, U15, U14, U13) Leagues and Cup and Grassroots competitions;
- e. Futsal League;
- f. Qatar Amateur League;
- g. any other official competitions decided by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall issue special regulations to this end.

<sup>2</sup> The QSLM organizes and coordinates the following competitions held in the territory of the State of Qatar:

- a. First Division National League ("QSL");
- b. Qatar Cup;
- c. Any other official competitions decided by QSLM provided they do not interfere with those competitions organized by the QFA and they are approved by the Executive Committee of the QFA.

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

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

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Article **75 Club Licensing System**

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

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

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

- a) The Qatar Stars League (First Division National League);
- b) The Second Division National League; *and*
- c) International club competitions of AFC and FIFA.

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Article **76 Rights**

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<sup>1</sup> The QFA 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, place and law. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.

<sup>2</sup> The Executive Committee shall decide how and to what extent these rights are utilized and draw up special regulations to this end. The Executive Committee shall alone decide whether these rights shall be utilized exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.

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Article **77** **Image and Sound and other Data Carriers**

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

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**VII. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS**

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Article **78** **International Matches and Competitions**

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

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

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Article **79** **Contacts**

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

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Article **80** **Authorizations**

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Clubs that are affiliated to the QFA may only join another FIFA member association or participate in competitions on that FIFA member association's territory under exceptional circumstances. In each case, authorization must be given by the QFA, the other FIFA

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

## VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

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### Article **81** Unforeseen Contingencies and Force Majeure

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

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### Article **82** Dissolution

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<sup>1</sup> Any decision relating to the dissolution of the QFA requires a majority of four-fifths of all of the Members of the QFA, which must be obtained at a General Assembly specially convened for the purpose.

<sup>2</sup> If the QFA is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to the Qatar Olympic Committee. It shall hold these assets as a trustee in accordance with the relevant professional duties until the QFA is re-established. The final General Assembly may, however, choose another recipient for the assets on the basis of a four-fifths majority.

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### Article **83** Enforcement

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These Statutes were adopted at the General Assembly in Doha on 18 April 2017 and has come into force with immediate effect.

Doha, 18 April 2017

President

General Secretary