

# **Statutes of the South Asian Football Federation**

Edition 2020

# Definition

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

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

17. “Laws of the Game” means “the laws of association football issued by The IFAB”.
18. “League” means “a professional league and/or amateur league which consists of a combination of clubs within the territory of a Football Association and which is subordinate to and under the authority of that Football Association”
19. “Member Association” means “a Football Association which is a member of the SAFF and the AFC.”
20. “Officials” means “all office bearers and members of various Committees, managers, coaches, trainers, match officials, medical officials, staff and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in the SAFF, Football Associations, Leagues or Clubs as well as other persons obliged to comply with the SAFF Statutes (except Players and Intermediaries)”.
21. “Office-bearer” means “a person who holds a position of authority and responsibility within SAFF”.
22. “Player” means a “professional or amateur football player licensed with a Football Association”.
23. “Region” means the geographic zone composed of Football Associations belonging to the South Zone as per the AFC Statutes.
24. “Regional Association” means “a group of member associations recognised by the AFC that belong to the same geographic zone”.
25. “Regulations” means “without limitation, the rules, regulations, codes, instructions and directives as promulgated by the Executive Committee”.
26. “Stakeholder” means “a person, entity or organisation which is not a Member Association and/or body of FIFA, a Confederation or a Regional Association but has an interest or concern in the SAFF’s activities, which may affect or be affected by SAFF’s actions, objectives and policies, in particular clubs, players, coaches and professional leagues”.
27. “Simple majority” means “more than fifty percent (50%)”.
28. “Statutes, Regulation Governing the Application of the Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress” means “rules and regulations promulgated by the Congress”.

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

# **CHAPTER 1: The SAFF**

## **ARTICLE 1 TITLE, LEGAL FORM, HEADQUARTERS AND LANGUAGE**

1. The organisation shall be called the “South Asian Football Federation” or “SAFF”.
2. SAFF is a Regional Association recognised by the AFC comprising Member Associations in the Region as per Article 7.10 and Article 14 of the AFC Statutes.
3. The headquarters of the SAFF shall be at Dhaka, Bangladesh and may only be transferred by a resolution of the Congress.
4. The official language of the SAFF shall be English. Each Member Association shall be responsible for its own translation.
5. The flag of the SAFF shall contain the official logo of SAFF with its motto, “STRENGTH IN UNITY”, underneath of which the following text stands in capital letters: "SOUTH ASIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION".

## **ARTICLE 2 OBJECTIVES AND OBLIGATIONS**

1. The objectives of the SAFF are:
  - a. to improve, develop and promote Football in the Region in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
  - b. to protect the interests of its Member Associations and to foster friendly relationships between and amongst its Member Associations, Football Associations, FIFA, the AFC, other Regional Associations across Asia and recognized by AFC in order to stage inter-regional tournaments and competitions and any other organisations.
  - c. to organise and manage Football competitions of all types and categories in the Region as well as development projects and workshops.
  - d. to use its efforts to ensure that the game of Football is available to and resourced for all who wish to participate in the Region regardless of gender or age.
  - e. to draw up regulations and provisions governing the game of Football and all related matters and ensure their enforcement, at all times in accordance with the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA and the AFC.

- f. to promote the development of women's Football and the full participation of women at all levels in the Region, including in governance and technical roles.
- g. 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 Member Associations or give rise to the abuse of Football.
- h. to institute strong measures and campaigns against bribery, corruption, drugs and racism in Football in the Region.
- i. to raise funds to finance activities of the SAFF.
- j. to purchase, hold or otherwise acquire any real property or any interest in the same which shall be for the benefit of the Federation, or calculated to promote or assist in the promotion of any of the objects of the Federation.
- k. to improve, develop, manage, mortgage, lease, let or sell any real or personal property of the Federation and to turn the same to profit and advantage in any way that the Executive Committee may deem advisable.
- l. to do such things and apply such funds as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the above objects.

2. The obligations of the SAFF are:

- a. to comply fully with the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA and the AFC, and relevant decisions of the CAS, at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its Member Associations.
- b. to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies.
- c. to convene its supreme and legislative body at regular intervals, at least once a year.
- d. to submit its Statutes, rules and regulations (as revised from time to time) to the AFC for approval prior to ratification, and to ensure that its Statutes, rules and regulations comply with the principles of good governance and all AFC recommendations, as well as the list of its Officials and/or other persons who are its authorised signatories, with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with the AFC and third parties.
- e. to cooperate and work in close collaboration with the AFC and FIFA in all spheres in order to attain the objectives of the SAFF, and to take part in activities or programmes organised by the AFC if requested.
- f. to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by the IFAB, as well as the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game issued by FIFA, and to ensure that these are also respected by its Member Associations.

- g. not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised by FIFA and the AFC or with Football Associations that have been suspended or expelled from FIFA and/or the AFC.
- h. to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play.
- i. to comply with these Statutes, as well as all other rules and regulations of SAFF, at all times.
- j. to notify FIFA and the AFC promptly of any change in its address and in the name of its principal office bearers.
- k. to manage its affairs independently and with no influence from any third parties.
- l. to invite the AFC to attend the Congress.
- m. to organise all SAFF competitions in compliance with the AFC and FIFA international calendar.

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

1. The SAFF is committed to respecting all internationally-recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.
2. The SAFF is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
3. Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, age, physical appearance, 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.

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

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

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

1. The SAFF and Member Associations shall organise and/or play:
  - a) Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by The IFAB. Only The IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game;
  - b) Futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA; and
  - c) Beach Soccer in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA.

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

1. Every person and organisation directly or indirectly bound by these Statutes must observe these Statutes and all regulations, directives and decisions of the SAFF, as well as the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA and the AFC, as well the principle of fair-play.

## **ARTICLE 7 MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Congress, only upon the recommendation of the AFC, shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member Association.
2. Any Football Association which is responsible for governing and supervising football in all of its forms in its country or territory and is a member association of the AFC may become a Member Association.
3. The Member Associations shall be geographically-located in the Region as per the AFC Statutes.
4. Only one (1) Football Association shall be officially recognised by the SAFF in each country or territory, as per the AFC Statutes.
5. Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member Association from its due financial obligations towards the SAFF or other Member Associations, but leads to cancellation of all rights in relation to the SAFF.

## **ARTICLE 8 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

1. A membership admission application shall be examined by the AFC. The AFC shall request the Congress either to approve or disapprove the application.
2. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Statutes, any new member associations admitted by the AFC which belong to the Region and any existing

member associations of the AFC which are reclassified as belonging to the Region shall automatically be admitted as Member Associations of the SAFF.

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

1. The Member Associations of SAFF have the following rights:
  - a) to take part in the Congress, to know its agenda in advance, to be called to the Congress within the prescribed time and to exercise their voting rights;
  - b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
  - c) to nominate candidates for all bodies of the SAFF that are subject to election;
  - d) to be informed of the affairs of the SAFF through the official bodies of the SAFF;
  - e) to take part in the SAFF competitions, through their representative teams and clubs and/or other activities or programmes organised by the SAFF; and
  - f) to benefit from the rights and privileges granted to them by these Statutes and applicable Regulations.
2. The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and all applicable regulations.

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

1. Member Associations have the following obligations:
  - a) To comply fully with the regulations, statutes, circulars and decisions of FIFA, AFC and SAFF and Decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) passed in accordance with Article 56 and/or 57 of the SAFF Statutes at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
  - b) to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies;
  - c) to take part in competitions and other activities or programmes organised by the SAFF;
  - d) to pay their membership subscriptions;
  - e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by The IFAB as well as the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;

- f) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the Statutes, Regulations, Directives and Decisions of FIFA, AFC and the SAFF shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate arbitration tribunal recognised by the SAFF, AFC and FIFA and that any recourse to ordinary courts is prohibited;
- g) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised by FIFA and the AFC or with Member Associations that have been suspended or expelled;
- h) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
- i) to observe the mandatory items specified within the relevant Regulations for the duration of their membership;
- j) to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;
- k) to recognise each of the other Member Associations as the sole controlling body of Football in their respective countries and territories;
- l) to be held responsible for the good conduct and all financial commitments of their Clubs towards the SAFF;
- m) to notify SAFF promptly of any change in its address and in the name of principal office bearers; and
- n) to manage its affairs independently and with no influence from any third parties, even if such third party influence was not the fault of the Member Association concerned.

2. Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member Association may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes. Each Member Association is responsible towards SAFF, FIFA and the AFC for any and all acts of the members of their bodies caused by the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of such members.

## **ARTICLE 11 SUSPENSION**

1. The Congress may suspend a Member Association solely at the recommendation of the AFC. The Executive Committee may at the recommendation of the AFC, without a vote of the Congress, temporarily suspend with immediate effect a Member Association that seriously violates its obligations. A suspension approved by the Executive Committee shall last until the next Congress, unless the Executive Committee has revoked such suspension prior to the Congress with an approval of AFC.

2. A suspension of a Member Association by the Congress requires a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.
3. A suspension of a Member Association by the Executive Committee at the recommendation of the AFC shall be confirmed at the next Congress by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote. If it is not confirmed, such suspension shall be automatically lifted.
4. The Congress may lift the suspension of a Member Association solely at the recommendation of the AFC. The lifting of the suspension of a Member Association by the Congress requires a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.
5. A suspended Member Association shall lose its membership rights. Other Member Associations shall not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member Association.
6. Member Associations which do not participate in at least two (2) of the SAFF's competitions (as determined by the Executive Committee) over a period of two (2) consecutive years immediately prior to a Congress shall be suspended from voting at the Congress until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

## **ARTICLE 12 EXPULSION**

1. The Congress may expel a Member Association solely at the recommendation of the AFC (*cf.* Article 7.1).
2. The presence of an absolute majority (more than 50%) of the Member Associations eligible to vote at the Congress is necessary for a vote to expel a Member Association to be valid.
3. The motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.

## **ARTICLE 13 RESIGNATIONS**

1. Subject to Article 13.2, a Member Association may resign from the SAFF with effect from the end of a calendar year. Notice of resignation must reach the General Secretariat no later than six (6) months before the end of the calendar year and be sent by registered letter.
2. Resignation shall not affect any existing financial obligations towards the SAFF or its Member Associations.

## **ARTICLE 14 STATUS AND RECOGNITION OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

1. The executive body of a Member Association shall be elected by the congress, even on an interim basis, within the Member Association. The statutes of a Member Association shall provide for a democratic election procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election.
2. The SAFF shall not recognise the executive body of a Member Association, even on an interim basis, if it has not been elected in accordance with Article 14.1, except if the executive body is established as a normalisation committee by FIFA, in consultation with the AFC.
3. Only decisions passed by bodies that have been constituted in accordance with Article 14.1 and 14.2 may be recognised by the SAFF.

## **ARTICLE 15 STATUS OF CLUBS, LEAGUES, DOMESTIC ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER GROUPS OF STAKEHOLDERS AFFILIATED TO A MEMBER ASSOCIATION**

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

## **ARTICLE 16 HONORARY APPOINTMENTS**

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

2. Honorary officials may attend and participate in Congress without the right to vote.

#### **ARTICLE 17 SAFF ORGANISATION REGULATIONS**

1. The Executive Committee may establish SAFF Organisation Regulations to support and supplement these Statutes if required.

#### **ARTICLE 18 BODIES**

1. The Congress is the supreme and legislative body of the SAFF.
2. The Executive Committee is the executive body of the SAFF.
3. The General Secretariat is the administrative body of the SAFF.
4. The Standing and Ad Hoc Committees shall assist the Executive Committee in the performance of its duties in accordance with the SAFF Organisation Regulations and these Statutes.
5. The independent committees of the SAFF are the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, the Appeal Committee, and the Electoral Committee. They shall fulfil their responsibilities and functions in accordance with these Statutes and the applicable SAFF regulations.
6. The independent auditors shall perform all audits of the SAFF's accounts and financial statements as required by law.
7. The SAFF may from time to time establish other bodies which it deems necessary for the development of football in the Region.
8. The bodies of the SAFF shall be either elected or appointed by the SAFF itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes.

## **CHAPTER 2: THE CONGRESS**

#### **ARTICLE 19 DEFINITION, COMPOSITION OF THE CONGRESS AND MEETINGS**

1. The Congress is the meeting at which all Member Associations of the SAFF convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of the SAFF. Only a Congress that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.

2. A Congress may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress. As a general rule, a Congress will be conducted in person. However, if the circumstances so require, a Congress may be held by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication. In such a case, the Congress may deliberate and make any decision, and it shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a Congress duly convened and held in person.
3. The President shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with the Standing Orders of the Congress.
4. The honorary officials appointed in accordance with Article 16.1 may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.
5. Representatives of the AFC shall take part in the Congress without voting rights.

## **ARTICLE 20 DELEGATES AND VOTING**

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

## **ARTICLE 21 AREA OF AUTHORITY**

1. The Congress has the following authority:
  - a) adopting or amending the Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress;
  - b) appointing two (2) Members to check the minutes and approving the minutes of the current Congress (cf. Article 26);
  - c) electing the Executive Committee (cf. Article 31);
  - d) electing the independent committees upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
  - e) appointing the scrutineers (cf. Article 26);
  - f) approving the financial statements;
  - g) approving the budget;
  - h) approving the General Secretary's annual report;
  - i) appointing the independent auditors upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
  - j) fixing the membership subscriptions;
  - k) deciding, upon the nomination of the Executive Committee, whether to confer honorary titles;
  - l) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member Association upon the recommendation of the AFC;
  - m) revoking the mandate of one or a number of members of a body of SAFF;
  - n) transfer the Secretariat of the SAFF;
  - o) dissolving the SAFF; and
  - p) consider and act upon proposals submitted by a Member Association, the Executive Committee or the AFC in accordance with these Statutes.

## **ARTICLE 22 QUORUM OF THE CONGRESS**

1. The quorum for the Congress shall be the simple majority (more than 50% percent) of the Member Associations who are entitled to vote.

## **ARTICLE 23 DECISIONS OF THE CONGRESS**

1. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a proposal or motion shall be passed if supported by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast.
2. Blank ballot papers, invalid votes or electronic votes manipulated in any way as well as abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.
3. A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count save in cases of elections which shall be carried out in accordance with the SAFF Electoral Code. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a proposal or motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in alphabetical order.

## **ARTICLE 24 ELECTIONS**

1. The SAFF Electoral Code and any relevant AFC and FIFA regulations shall govern any elective Congress.
2. The election of office-bearers at the Congress shall be done in person by secret ballot. Where a candidate has no opponent for the seat, they may be elected by acclamation. No voting by letter or proxy is permitted.
3. The position of the President shall be elected as follows:
  - a) where there are two (2) candidates on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast of the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is necessary; and
  - b) where there are more than two (2) candidates on the first ballot, two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote are necessary. Should no candidate receive two-thirds (2/3) of the votes on the first ballot, all candidates move to the second ballot. From the second ballot (if required) onwards, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast of the Member Association who are present and eligible to vote is necessary. If no candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot. This process shall continue (if required) until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority is achieved.
4. The other positions listed in Article 31 shall be elected as follows:
  - a) where there is one (1) position available on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast of the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is necessary. If no candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot. All subsequent ballots shall require the same simple majority to be

achieved. This process shall continue until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority is achieved;

b) where there is more than one (1) position available on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast by the Member Associations who are present and eligible to vote is necessary. Where:

i) at least one (1) candidate is elected but not all positions are filled, all remaining candidates shall move into the subsequent ballot;

ii) no candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot;

c) all subsequent ballots shall require the same simple majority to be achieved. This process shall continue until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority is achieved.

5. The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and members of the independent committees shall be elected by the Congress en bloc by a simple majority (more than 50% percent).

## **ARTICLE 25 ORDINARY CONGRESS**

1. The Ordinary Congress shall be held annually.
2. The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date. Notice of the Ordinary Congress shall be posted to all Member Associations under registered letter, courier service or electronic medium not later than three (3) months before the scheduled date of the Congress unless decided otherwise by the Executive Committee.
3. The General Secretary shall, not later than twenty-one (21) days before the date of the Congress, mail to the Member Associations by registered cover the following:
  - a) the agenda of the Congress;
  - b) the report of the General Secretary;
  - c) the Financial Statements and the Auditor's report;
  - d) the names of the candidates for election;
  - e) proposals for amendments and/or alterations to the Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the SAFF Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress of the SAFF (if applicable); and
  - f) any other proposal submitted by Member Associations or the Executive Committee for which due notice has been given.

## **ARTICLE 26 ORDINARY CONGRESS AGENDA**

1. The Agenda of the Congress shall comprise the following:
  - a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes;
  - b) the approval of the Congress agenda;
  - c) an address by the President;
  - d) the appointment of two (2) members to check the official minutes;
  - e) the appointment of two (2) scrutineers to check the voting;
  - f) suspension or expulsion of a Member Association on the recommendation of the AFC (if applicable);
  - g) dismissal of a person or body (if applicable);
  - h) the approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress;
  - i) the General Secretary's report for the period preceding Congress;
  - j) the reports of the Committees and bodies;
  - k) the submission for approval of the Statement of Accounts and the Auditor's Reports;
  - l) the approval of the budget (if applicable);
  - m) admission for membership on the recommendation of the AFC (if applicable);
  - n) the proposals for amendments and alterations to the SAFF Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the SAFF Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress of the SAFF (if applicable);
  - o) consideration of proposals (if any) submitted by Member Associations, the Executive Committee or the AFC in accordance with these Statutes;
  - p) appointment of External Auditors (if applicable);
  - q) to confer Honorary Titles (if applicable);
  - r) the election of the independent committees upon the proposal of the Executive Committee (as applicable); and

- s) the election of the (as applicable):
  - i) President;
  - ii) two (2) Vice Presidents;
  - iii) one (1) AFC Executive Committee member representing SAFF
  - iv) two (2) Executive Committee members; and
  - v) one (1) Female Executive Committee member.
- 2. Any proposal that a Member Association wishes to submit to the Congress shall be sent to the SAFF General Secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least six (6) weeks before the date of the Congress.
- 3. The motion to amend and/or alter the agenda of an Ordinary Congress must be adopted by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.

## **ARTICLE 27 EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS**

- 1. An Extraordinary Congress may be convened:
  - a) by the Executive Committee whenever deemed necessary;
  - b) in the event the office of the President falls vacant for more than one (1) year; or
  - c) upon a written request of at least one third (1/3) of Member Associations within sixty (60) days of receipt of the written request.
- 2. The date and venue shall be determined by the Executive Committee and notified to the Member Associations at least thirty (30) days before the Extraordinary Congress.
- 3. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened on the initiative of the Executive Committee, it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened upon the request of Member Associations, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Member Associations.
- 4. The motion to amend and/or alter the agenda of an Extraordinary Congress must be adopted by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.
- 5. An Extraordinary Congress shall be conducted in the same manner as the Ordinary Congress.

## **ARTICLE 28 AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTES, REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE STATUTES AND THE STANDING ORDER OF THE CONGRESS**

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

## **ARTICLE 29 MINUTES**

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

## **ARTICLE 30. EFFECTIVE DATES OF DECISIONS**

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

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

## **ARTICLE 31 CONSTITUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of seven (7) members elected from amongst the candidates nominated by the Member Associations for the following positions

- (a) President;
- (b) two (2) Vice-Presidents;
- (c) one (1) AFC Executive Committee member representing SAFF;
- (d) two (2) Executive Committee members; and
- (e) one (1) Female Executive Committee member.

Unless stipulated otherwise in the Statutes, no member of the Executive Committee shall occupy more than one of the positions listed in Article 31. 1(a) to (e) above.

- 2. Upon being elected, every member of the Executive Committee undertakes, and accepts responsibility, to faithfully, loyally and independently act in the best interest of the SAFF and the promotion and development of football in the Region.
- 3. Members of the Executive Committee shall serve the term of four (4) years and are eligible for re-election. They may serve no more than three (3) full terms of office (whether consecutive or not). Therefore, members of the Executive Committee shall not serve the SAFF for more than twelve (12) years in total. A member of the Executive Committee shall not at the same time be a member of any of the independent committees.
- 4. No person shall be elected to the office of President for more than three (3) full terms (whether consecutive or not). Accordingly, the person elected to the office of President shall not serve the SAFF as a President for more than twelve (12) years in total. Previous terms served on the Executive Committee shall not be considered in determining the term limit of a President.
- 5. Every candidate nominated to the Executive Committee, including the President, shall be under the age of seventy (70) as at the date of the election. Every

candidate nominated is required to submit the relevant documents to the General Secretariat for verification in accordance with the SAFF Electoral Code.

6. Candidates for the position of AFC Executive Committee member must pass an eligibility check carried out by AFC in accordance with the AFC Statutes and applicable AFC regulations.
7. Candidates for all other positions must pass an eligibility check carried out by the SAFF Electoral Committee. The standard of the eligibility check shall be of the same level as that conducted by the AFC prior to the election of the AFC Executive Committee positions.
8. Subject to Article 37.2 which relates to candidates for the office of the SAFF President, every candidate nominated to the Executive Committee for election must be by name and shall be proposed by their Football Association in the prescribed forms. Such nomination shall be submitted to reach the General Secretariat not later than two (2) months before the date of the Congress. Each nomination must be in accordance with the further provisions contained within the SAFF Electoral Code.
9. Without prejudice to each Member Association's rights under Article 37.2 which relates to candidates for the office of the SAFF President, a Member Association may propose only one (1) candidate for each position in the Executive Committee. If a Member Association proposes more than one (1) candidate for a position in the Executive Committee, all candidates proposed by that Member Association shall be declared invalid.
10. No Member Association shall be eligible to be represented by more than one (1) member in the SAFF Executive Committee. This shall include the member referred to in Article 31.1 (c) of these Statutes.
11. All candidates must be persons who have served football in various capacities at club, regional, national level or international level and citizens of the country represented by their respective Football Association.
12. The General Secretariat shall notify the Member Associations of the names of proposed candidates at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress.
13. The Senior Vice President shall be appointed by the Executive Committee upon the proposal of the President from amongst the elected Vice Presidents. In the absence of an appointment, the longest-serving Vice President shall be deemed to be the Senior Vice President.
14. If the President ceases to carry out or is prevented from performing her/his duties, the Senior Vice President shall deputise and assume the powers and responsibility of the President until the next Congress subject to the provisions of Article 27.1 (b).

15. If a position is vacant, the Executive Committee, upon the proposal of the President, shall fill that position until the next Ordinary Congress or Extraordinary Congress (if applicable), when a replacement will be elected for the remaining term of mandate. For the avoidance of doubt, the individual who fills that vacancy shall not have the right to vote.
16. If any member of the Executive Committee as set out in Article 31.1 ceases to carry out his duties within his Member Association, the Member Association may propose for his removal from the SAFF Executive Committee, he may be replaced by the decision of the Congress or Extraordinary Congress.

## **ARTICLE 32 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to make decisions on all matters, which are not exclusive to the Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes, including the release of the funds of the SAFF towards the fulfilment of its objectives.
2. The duties of the Executive Committee are as follows:
  - a) to carry out the objectives of the SAFF;
  - b) to prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of the SAFF;
  - c) to ensure that the Statutes are applied, and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
  - d) to approve regulations stipulating how the SAFF shall be organised internally;
  - e) to formulate the Rules, Regulations, Standing Orders and Instructions of the SAFF;
  - f) to appoint the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and members of the Standing Committees;
  - g) to propose to the Congress the individuals to be elected or dismissed as Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons, and members of the independent committees;
  - h) to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary at any time;
  - i) to approve and submit to the Congress the following:

- i) the reports of the General Secretary and the various Committees and bodies;
  - ii) the Statement of Accounts and the Auditor's Report;
  - iii) the budget;
  - iv) all proposals for amendments and alterations to the SAFF Statutes, SAFF Regulations Governing the Application of the SAFF Statutes and Standing Orders of the congress of the SAFF;
  - v) the appointment of the External Auditors; and
  - vi) other proposals submitted by the Executive Committee members in accordance with these Statutes;
- j) to appoint and dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President;
  - k) to relieve a person of their duties in accordance with Article 40.9; and
  - l) to provisionally dismiss a person or body or provisionally suspend a Member Association until the next Congress on the request of the AFC.
3. The powers and responsibilities of the Executive Committee may be defined in greater detail within the SAFF Organisation Regulations.
  4. The Executive Committee may delegate tasks arising out of its areas of authority to the President, other bodies of the SAFF or third parties.

### **ARTICLE 33 MEETINGS AND DECISION**

1. The Executive Committee shall stipulate the terms of reference of the Executive Committee, standing orders for meetings and its ability to make decisions within the SAFF Organisation Regulations. If the circumstances so require, meetings may be held by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication. In such a case, the Executive Committee may deliberate and make any decision, and it shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at an Executive Committee meeting duly convened and held in person.
2. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every year.
3. The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Committee members request a meeting or if the President deems it necessary, the President shall convene it within twenty-one (21) days.

4. Any member of the SAFF Executive Committee who is absent without a properly accepted apology by the Executive Committee for two (2) consecutive meetings or any four (4) meetings during their term shall be provisionally suspended from the SAFF Executive Committee. A decision shall then be made by the SAFF Congress, at the next SAFF Congress, which shall be final. Before voting on such a matter, the member of the SAFF Executive Committee concerned shall be given the opportunity to explain him or herself in person or in writing.

#### **ARTICLE 34 DISMISSAL OF A PERSON OR BODY**

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

#### **ARTICLE 35 EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

1. The Executive Committee shall stipulate the terms of reference of the Emergency Committee, standing orders for meetings and its ability to make decisions within the SAFF Organisation Regulations. If the circumstances so require, meetings may be held by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication. In such a case, the Emergency Committee may deliberate and make any decision, and it shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at an Emergency Committee meeting duly convened and held in person.
2. The Emergency Committee shall deal with all matters requiring immediate settlement between meetings of the Executive Committee. The Emergency Committee shall consist of:
  - a) the President; and
  - b) the two (2) Vice Presidents.

3. The President shall convene the Emergency Committee meetings.
4. Decisions of the Emergency Committee shall have immediate effect. The President shall notify the Executive Committee immediately of the decisions passed by the Emergency Committee.

### **ARTICLE 36 THE PRESIDENT**

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

### **ARTICLE 37 CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE SAFF PRESIDENT**

1. The President shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four (4) years. The mandate shall begin after the end of the Congress which has elected him. A President may be re-elected subject to the provisions of Article 31.
2. Candidates for the position of President shall be valid only if nominated by at least two (2) Member Associations (including the Member Association that they represent).

3. Candidates for the position of President shall have played an active role in Football (e.g. as a Player or an Official within FIFA, a Confederation, a Regional Association or an Association) for two (2) of the last five (5) years before being proposed as a candidate.
4. Any Member Association that wishes to nominate a candidate for the position of President must submit the prescribed form to the General Secretariat not later than two (2) months before the date of the Congress. Each nomination must be in accordance with the further provisions contained within the SAFF Electoral Code.
5. The General Secretariat shall notify the Member Associations of the names of proposed candidates for the office of the President at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress.

# CHAPTER 4: THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

## ARTICLE 38 GENERAL SECRETARIAT

1. The General Secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of the SAFF under the direction of the General Secretary. Members of the General Secretariat shall abide by SAFF's internal regulations and shall carry out the tasks entrusted to them in the best possible manner.

## ARTICLE 39 THE GENERAL SECRETARY

1. The General Secretary shall be the Chief Executive of the General Secretariat and shall work under the direction of the Executive Committee.
2. The General Secretary shall be appointed and dismissed by the Executive Committee upon the proposal of the President. The General Secretary shall report to the Executive Committee.
3. The General Secretary shall:
  - a) implement decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee in accordance with the instructions of the President;
  - b) be responsible for the administration of the General Secretariat;
  - c) be responsible for the appointment, dismissal and discipline of all staff of the General Secretariat;
  - d) organise, assist and participate in the Congress, Executive Committee, Emergency and Committee meetings;
  - e) be responsible for the minutes of all meetings;
  - f) be responsible for all publications of the SAFF;
  - g) be responsible for all correspondence of the SAFF;
  - h) liaise with FIFA, AFC, Confederations, Regional Associations, Member Associations and any other organisation in the promotion of the objectives of the SAFF;
  - i) manage and keep the accounts of the SAFF properly; and
  - j) sign decisions on behalf of any SAFF Committee, provided that no other ruling exists in the relevant regulations.
4. Additional powers of the General Secretary, including the authority to represent SAFF, shall be provided for by the SAFF Organisation Regulations.
5. In the absence of the General Secretary, an Acting General Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

6. The General Secretary shall attend all Standing Committee meetings of the SAFF as an ex officio official without the right to vote. In the event the General Secretary is unable to attend the Standing Committee meeting, the General Secretary shall appoint a representative(s) from the General Secretariat to attend on his behalf.
7. The General Secretary shall not be a Congress delegate or a member of any body of the SAFF.

## **CHAPTER 5: THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **ARTICLE 40 STANDING COMMITTEES**

1. The Standing Committees of the SAFF are the:
  - a) Finance Committee;
  - b) Competitions Committee;
  - c) Referees Committee;
  - d) Women's Football Committee;
  - e) Legal Committee;
  - f) Development Committee; and
  - g) Marketing and Communications Committee.
2. The Standing Committees shall report to the Executive Committee. They shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in their respective fields of function.
3. The terms of reference of each Standing Committee, standing orders for meetings and their ability to make decisions are governed by the SAFF Organisation Regulations. If the circumstances so require, meetings may be held by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication. In such a case, the Standing Committee may deliberate and make any decision, and it shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a Standing Committee meeting duly convened and held in person.
4. Only members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed as Chairpersons of the Standing Committees. The members of each Standing Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee on the proposal of the Member Associations or the President. The Executive Committee shall ensure appropriate female representation on the Standing Committees. The term of office for the members of each Standing Committee is four (4) years.
5. Members may be reappointed and may also be relieved of their duties at any time in accordance with the SAFF Organisation Regulations. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy on a Standing Committee shall have the right to vote.

6. Each Chairperson shall conduct business in compliance with these Statutes and the SAFF Organisation Regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee.
7. The dates of meetings of each Standing Committee shall be fixed by the General Secretariat in consultation with the relevant Chairperson.
8. Any decisions and/or policies made by a Standing Committee must be either in accordance with a delegation from the Executive Committee or subsequently ratified by the Executive Committee, in order to take effect.
9. Any member of a Standing Committee who is absent for two (2) consecutive meetings or any four (4) meetings during their term without a properly accepted apology is automatically suspended. A decision shall then be made by the Executive Committee whether or not to dismiss the member, which shall be final.
10. Each Standing Committee may propose amendments to its terms of reference within the SAFF Organisation Regulations to the Executive Committee.

#### **ARTICLE 41 FINANCE COMMITTEE**

1. The Finance Committee shall:
  - a) monitor the financial administration of the SAFF and advise the Executive Committee on financial matters and asset management;
  - b) prepare estimates of income and expenditure for specific projects approved by the Executive Committee; and
  - c) analyse the SAFF budget and financial statements prepared by the General Secretary for submission to the Executive Committee and the Congress for approval.

#### **ARTICLE 42 COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE**

1. The Competitions Committee shall organise and manage SAFF competitions and matches including making decisions on any matters related to these competitions and matches in accordance with these Statutes and all relevant Regulations

#### **ARTICLE 43 REFEREES COMMITTEE**

1. The Referees Committee shall:
  - a) to study proposals on refereeing and review proposed amendments to the Laws of the Game and advise SAFF Executive Committee and related Standing Committees accordingly;
  - b) appoint the referees, assistant referees, and referee assessors for all SAFF competitions and set guidelines for these appointments; and
  - c) approve a panel of SAFF Referees and Assistant Referees, Referee Assessors and Referee Instructors on a yearly basis.

## **ARTICLE 44 WOMEN'S FOOTBALL COMMITTEE**

1. The Women's Football Committee shall deal with all matters related to women's football in accordance with these Statutes and all relevant Regulations.

## **ARTICLE 45 LEGAL COMMITTEE**

1. The Legal Committee shall:
  - a) as requested by the Executive Committee, the President, the General Secretary or on the Legal Committee's own initiative, consider and advise on the management of legal issues that relate to and might reasonably affect the interests of the SAFF, in respect of the game of Football, and the Statutes, Rules and Regulations of the SAFF or its Member Associations;
  - b) report to the Executive Committee on any legal issue identified by the Committee as a matter requiring the attention of the Executive Committee, the Congress or other SAFF bodies which has not been dealt with by such competent bodies; and
  - c) assist the Executive Committee, the President or the General Secretary, when so required, to obtain legal advice or other legal services from the SAFF's legal advisers and assist in the review of any legal advice provided to the Regional Association.

## **ARTICLE 46 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

1. The Development Committee shall be responsible for and supervise the implementation of development programs.
2. The duties of the Committee shall be as follows:-
  - (i) to make a schedule of development activities according to the needs of the Member Associations.
  - (ii) to outline the details of the activities.
  - (iii) to recommend to the Executive Committee the subsidy for each type of activity.
  - (iv) to report to the Executive Committee from time to time on the implementation of the activities and their effectiveness.
  - (v) to undertake any other details given by the Executive Committee in the field of football development.

## **ARTICLE 47 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

1. The Marketing and Communications Committee shall advise the Executive Committee on the SAFF marketing strategies and policies as well as in negotiating, drafting and implementing contracts between the SAFF and its various marketing partners. They shall also be responsible for all media operations and liaison with international media

agencies. They might be required to undertake any other duties given by the Executive Committee in the field of Media.

## **CHAPTER 6: INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES**

### **ARTICLE 48 ELECTORAL COMMITTEE**

1. The Electoral Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and three (3) members for the Electoral Committee to function properly.
2. The responsibilities and functions of the Electoral Committee shall be stipulated in the SAFF Electoral Code.
3. The members of the Electoral Committee shall be recommended by the SAFF Executive Committee from the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and/or SAFF Appeal Committee to the Congress for election.
4. The General Secretary serves as the Secretary to the Electoral Committee. He takes part in the activities of the Committee in a consultative capacity and is responsible for related logistical and administrative matters.
5. In the event that any member of the Electoral Committee:
  - a. submits a candidature for an election; or
  - b. is a relative, whether by birth or marriage, of one of the candidates; or
  - c. has an identifiable conflict of interest (e.g. business relationship with a candidate or is of the same nationality as a candidate);

they are ineligible to sit on the Electoral Committee for matters where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality.

6. Members of the Electoral Committee shall be expected to officially declare their candidature for an election in such a way as to allow the replacement process to be carried out without any time pressure prejudicial to any election.
7. The Electoral Committee may be assisted by the General Secretariat at any time provided that the individuals providing the assistance are not candidates for any election and have no identifiable conflict of interest.

### **ARTICLE 49 JUDICIAL BODIES**

1. The judicial bodies of the SAFF are:
  - a) the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee; and
  - b) the Appeal Committee.

2. The responsibilities and functions of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee shall be stipulated in the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
3. The decision-making powers of other committees remain unaffected. The members of the judicial bodies shall not belong to any other body of the SAFF at the same time except the Electoral Committee.

#### **ARTICLE 50 DISCIPLINARY AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

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

#### **ARTICLE 51 APPEAL COMMITTEE**

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

#### **ARTICLE 52 SANCTIONS**

1. The SAFF may impose the following sanctions for any violation of its Statutes or Regulations on:
  - a) for individuals:
    - i) warning;
    - ii) fine;
    - iii) caution;
    - iv) expulsion;

- v) match suspension;
  - vi) ban from team dressing room and/or team bench;
  - vii) ban from entering a stadium;
  - viii) ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
  - ix) withdrawal of a title or award
  - x) confiscation; and
  - xi) social work.
- b) for Member Association and Clubs:
- i) warning;
  - ii) fine;
  - iii) full or partial Stadium closure;
  - iv) order to play a match on neutral territory;
  - v) ban on playing in a particular Stadium;
  - vi) annulment of the result of the match;
  - vii) disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition;
  - viii) defeat by forfeit;
  - ix) deduction of points (for a current or future competition);
  - x) relegation to a lower division;
  - xi) order that a match be replayed;
  - xii) withdrawal of a title and award;
  - xiii) confiscation;
  - xiv) withholding of revenues from an SAFF competition;
  - xv) prohibition on registering new players in SAFF competition;
  - xvi) restriction on the number of players that a Club may register for participation in SAFF competition;
  - xvii) withdrawal of a licence to participate in SAFF competition; and
  - xviii) social work.

# **CHAPTER 7: DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

## **ARTICLE 53 COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)**

1. The SAFF recognises the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland) to resolve disputes between the SAFF and the Confederations, Regional Associations, Member Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Players, Officials, Intermediaries and licensed match agents.
2. The provisions of the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall apply to the proceedings.
3. The CAS shall apply the various regulations of the SAFF.

## **ARTICLE 54 DISPUTES**

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

## **ARTICLE 55 DISPUTES OF NATIONAL DIMENSION**

1. Member Associations shall insert a clause in their statutes or regulations stipulating that it is prohibited to take disputes within the Member Association or disputes affecting Leagues, Clubs, members of Clubs, Players, Officials and other Member Association Officials to ordinary courts of law, unless FIFA regulations, AFC regulations, SAFF regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to ordinary courts of law.
2. Such disputes in the last instance shall be referred to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognised under the rules of the Member Association or to the CAS.
3. Member Associations shall ensure that the stipulation in Article 55.1 is implemented within the Member Association, if necessary, by imposing a binding obligation on its members. Member Associations shall impose sanctions on any party that fails to respect this obligation and ensure that any appeal against such sanctions shall likewise be strictly submitted to arbitration, and not to ordinary courts of law.

## **ARTICLE 56 JURISDICTION OF CAS AS AN ORDINARY COURT OF ARBITRATION**

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

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

## **ARTICLE 57 JURISDICTION OF CAS AS AN APPEALS ARBITRATION BODY**

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

## **CHAPTER 8: MISCELLANEOUS**

### **ARTICLE 58 FINANCES**

1. The financial period of the SAFF shall be one (1) year and shall commence on 1 January of each year.
2. The revenue and expenses of the SAFF shall be responsibly managed, including where appropriate the creation of reserves.

3. The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of the SAFF with its subsidiaries as of 31 December every year.

#### **ARTICLE 59 REVENUE**

1. The revenue of the SAFF arises specifically from:
  - a) Member Associations' annual subscriptions;
  - b) receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which the SAFF is entitled;
  - c) fines imposed by the authorised bodies;
  - d) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by the SAFF;
  - e) donations;
  - f) FIFA Forward Programme;
  - g) AFC Regional Association Fund; and
  - h) any other means deemed proper by the Executive Committee.

#### **ARTICLE 60 EXPENSES**

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

#### **ARTICLE 61 EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

1. Independent External Auditors shall be appointed by the Congress which shall examine and certify the accounts approved by the Finance Committee before the same is presented to the Executive Committee and the Congress.
2. The independent External Auditors shall be appointed for a term of two years which may be renewed.

#### **ARTICLE 62 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**

1. Each Member Association shall pay a standard annual subscription of two hundred (200) US Dollars due by 1 January of each calendar year. The annual subscription for new Member Associations for the year in question shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the close of the Congress at which they were admitted.

2. A Member Association which has not paid its subscription by the 1st day of April of the same year shall cease to be a member of the SAFF unless a reason for non-payment acceptable to the Executive Committee is submitted. The notification of the cancellation of membership shall be sent by the General Secretary of SAFF by registered letter. On payment of the subscription in arrears, the Association concerned shall automatically regain all its rights.

#### **ARTICLE 63 SETTLEMENT**

1. The SAFF may debit any Member Association's accounts to settle claims.

#### **ARTICLE 64 COMPETITIONS**

1. The SAFF shall organise its official competitions to be held within the Region. AFC Competitions shall not be affected by this Article.
2. The Executive Committee shall determine the official competitions to be organised and coordinated by the SAFF. The Executive Committee shall decide the venue for the final competitions organised by the SAFF.
3. The Executive Committee may delegate to Member Associations the authority to organise competitions.
4. The Executive Committee may set up regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of SAFF competitions.
5. By the act of entering its team to a competition organised by the SAFF, each Member Association and/or Club affiliated to a Member Association agrees to comply with the Statutes, Rules and Regulations, Directives and Decisions of FIFA, AFC, SAFF and their bodies.
6. The admission to a SAFF competition of a Member Association or Club directly or indirectly involved in any activity aimed at arranging or influencing the outcome of a match at national or international level can be refused with immediate effect, without prejudice to any possible disciplinary measures.

#### **ARTICLE 65 CLUB LICENSING**

1. The Executive Committee shall define a club licensing system governing:
  - a) the minimum criteria to be fulfilled by clubs in order to be admitted to SAFF competitions;
  - b) the licensing process (including the minimum requirements for the licensing bodies);  
and
  - c) the minimum requirements to be observed by the licensors.

## **ARTICLE 66 RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS**

1. The SAFF is the owner of all rights emanating from competitions and other events organised by SAFF, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, every kind of commercial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.
2. The Executive Committee shall decide how and to what extent the SAFF rights are utilised and may draw up special regulations pertaining to this. The Executive Committee shall alone decide whether the SAFF rights shall be utilised exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.

## **ARTICLE 67 AUTHORISATION**

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

## **ARTICLE 68 PUBLICATION OF CORPORATE DOCUMENTS**

1. SAFF shall make available on its official website the following documents and information in English:
  - a. Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress;
  - b. Electoral Code;
  - c. Disciplinary and Ethics Code;
  - d. Internal Organization Regulations;
  - e. Most important/key decisions;
  - f. SAFF Strategy, vision and mission;
  - g. Agenda for Executive Committee and Congress meetings; and
  - h. Circular letters

## **ARTICLE 69 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

1. All matters not provided for in the Statutes or in cases of force majeure shall be resolved by the Executive Committee unless decided otherwise by the Congress.

## **ARTICLE 70 DISSOLUTION**

1. The SAFF may be dissolved by a resolution to that effect passed by not less than three-quarters (3/4) of the Member Associations eligible to vote.

2. In the event of the SAFF being dissolved as provided above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the SAFF shall be fully discharged and the remaining costs or surplus shall be entrusted to the SAFF Member Associations until such time as the SAFF is re-established.

## **ARTICLE 71 ADMINISTRATION OF PROPERTY**

1. The property of the SAFF shall be vested in the name of the SAFF and shall be executed by a decision passed at the Executive Committee Meeting.
2. They are not empowered to sell, mortgage or transfer the property of the SAFF unless given the authority to do so by Congress.

## **ARTICLE 72 ADOPTION OF STATUTES**

1. These Statutes were adopted by the SAFF Congress on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020. They supersede all previous texts and come into force in accordance with Article 30.1 of these Statutes.

## **TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

1. Members of the current Executive Committee shall continue to hold position until the end of the current Executive Committee term in 2022 and an election for all positions listed in Article 31.1 of these Statutes shall be held during the SAFF Congress in 2022 for the new term 2022-2026, except for the election of the position of the AFC Executive Committee member representing SAFF which shall take place during the SAFF Congress to be held prior to the end of the current term if so directed by the AFC.
2. For the avoidance of doubt, the current term of the Executive Committee members shall not be considered in determining the term limit of an Executive Committee member.

This transitory provision comes into force with immediate effect and shall apply for the term 2018-2022.