

FAQ Statutory Reforms: 66th FIFA Congress

When did the revised FIFA Statutes come into force?

The FIFA Statutes approved by the Extraordinary FIFA Congress on 26 February 2016 came into force on 27 April 2016 following the statutory 60-day period. They are available on FIFA.com.

How will the role of the FIFA Council differ from that of the Executive Committee?

In addition to changes in the composition of the Council compared to the Executive Committee (cf. information below), the Council's role will be non-executive, supervisory and strategic, setting the vision for FIFA and global football. This is based on the principle of a clear separation of powers between the Council and the general secretariat, in particular a separation of the political/strategic function (Council) from the management/executive function (general secretariat), in order to reduce conflicts of interest and mirror best practices from other industries.

Until when can the confederations elect their Council members?

As communicated following [the meeting of the Executive Committee on 18 March 2016](#), the final deadline to elect the new additional Council members in accordance with the FIFA Statutes and the FIFA Governance Regulations is 30 September 2016.

When will the Council meet in its new composition for the first time?

With the revised FIFA Statutes in force since 27 April 2016, the Council will officially convene for the first time on 9 and 10 May 2016. For this meeting, the composition will remain the same as for the last Executive Committee meeting on 17 and 18 March 2016. The first meeting of the Council in its new composition is scheduled to take place in Zurich on 13 and 14 October 2016.

Who will perform the eligibility checks for candidates for the Council until the Review Committee is established?

In accordance with the FIFA Governance Regulations, all candidates for the Council must pass an eligibility check. Until the Review Committee is established, the Audit and Compliance Committee will conduct the eligibility checks. The Governance Committee (and therefore the Review Committee, as it is made up of members of the Governance Committee) is scheduled to be established at the 66th FIFA Congress in Mexico City on 12 and 13 May 2016.

How does FIFA manage its commercial agreements under the revised FIFA Statutes?

Various FIFA bodies are involved in the management of FIFA's commercial agreements under the revised FIFA Statutes.

The Council is responsible for defining the standards, policies and procedures applicable to the awarding of commercial contracts by FIFA, and for approving FIFA's overall commercial strategy.

The Finance Committee approves the revenue commitment by the general secretariat for commercial agreements.

The general secretariat submits a proposal for the overall commercial strategy and associated financial targets to the Council for approval, and develops rights packages and commercial agreements, and is also responsible for the negotiation, execution and performance of all commercial contracts, in accordance with standard policies and procedures set by the Council. The general secretariat also provides regular status reports on commercial activities and progress to the Council and the Finance Committee.

The fully independent Audit and Compliance Committee monitors the processes relating to the conclusion of commercial agreements to ensure continued compliance.

Who decides about FIFA's investment in football development?

One of FIFA's statutory objectives is to improve the game of football constantly and promote it globally in the light of its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes (cf. art. 2a) of the FIFA Statutes).

Various FIFA bodies are involved in the process of allocating development funds under the revised FIFA Statutes.

The Congress is responsible for approving the overall FIFA budget, while the Council sets overall strategic themes, fixes the overall budget for development activities, and defines the standard policies and procedures applicable to football development grants. The Development Committee determines development budget allocations to member associations and confederations, reviews and decides on project applications, draws up guidelines and regulations for development programmes, and provides regular status reports on development activities to the Council.

The general secretariat executes the Development Committee's decisions and offers administrative support, in particular with regard to the awarding of football development grants. The general secretariat also provides regular status reports to the Development Committee and the Council.

The fully independent Audit and Compliance monitors the processes relating to the distribution and flow of development-related funds.

Who decides on the host country for the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™?

The Congress (following proposals by the Council of up to three bids) decides on the host country for the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™. An absolute majority (more than 50%) of the member

associations present and eligible to vote is necessary in the first ballot. If an absolute majority is not reached in the first ballot, then the bid with the lowest number of votes in the first ballot is eliminated. In the second ballot, or if fewer than three bids are presented to the Congress, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient.

The Council decides on the place and dates of all other final competitions of FIFA tournaments and the number of teams taking part from each confederation.

How does FIFA organise its competitions?

Various FIFA bodies as well as the respective Local Organising Committee (LOC) are involved in the process of organising FIFA competitions.

The Council decides on the strategy for competitions, on any changes to the format of existing FIFA competitions, and on the bidding criteria for the FIFA World Cup™, and it also awards the hosting rights to all FIFA competitions except the FIFA World Cup™ (cf. above explanation).

The Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions approves the dates, match schedule and venues of final competitions, decides on specific regulations governing individual competitions, and oversees the execution of FIFA competitions.

The general secretariat proposes plans for the implementation and execution of competitions to the Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions and then, based on the approved strategy and regulations, executes the organisation of FIFA competitions. The general secretariat also interacts with the Local Organising Committee and provides regular status reports on commercial activities and progress to the Council and the Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions.

Who are the independent members of the standing committees and on what basis are they appointed?

The independent members of the Governance Committee (same as the other members of such committee) are elected by the Congress upon the proposal of the Council. Moreover, not less than half of the members of the Finance Committee and the Development Committee shall also fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the FIFA Governance Regulations. These members are appointed by the Council.

When will the members of the standing committees be appointed by the Council?

The appointment procedure for standing committees will be discussed at the meeting of the Council on 9 and 10 May 2016.

What will the function of the newly created Football Stakeholders Committee be? How will it be composed?

The Football Stakeholders Committee shall advise and assist the Council on all matters relating to football, particularly the structure of the game, as well as on all technical matters. The committee shall also deal with the relationship between clubs, players, leagues, member associations, confederations and FIFA as well as with issues relating to the interests of club football worldwide.

Each confederation as well as the different stakeholders involved in association football (in particular administrators, players, referees, coaches, clubs and leagues) shall be represented in the Football Stakeholders Committee.

What will be the role of the newly created Governance Committee? How are its members elected?

The Governance Committee will deal with – and advise and assist the Council on – all FIFA governance matters. The Governance Committee will consist of at least three members and not more than 12 members, to be elected by the Congress. No fewer than half of the committee's members, including the chairperson and the deputy chairperson, must fulfil the independence criteria. Details on the Governance Committee's responsibilities are stipulated in the FIFA Governance Regulations.

What will be the set-up of the proposed standing committees and how will the members be appointed?

The chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of each standing committee will be appointed by the Council on the proposal of the member associations, the President of FIFA or the confederations, except for the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the Governance Committee, who are elected by the Congress on the proposal of the Council. The Council will also be responsible for ensuring adequate female representation on the standing committees. The terms of office will be for four years, beginning on the respective date of appointment by the Council. Members of the standing committees may be relieved of their duties at any time by the Council, except for the members of the Governance Committee, who may only be relieved of their duties by the Congress.

How will the Review Committee be composed? And what is its role?

The chairperson, deputy chairperson and one independent member of the Governance Committee, while remaining members of the plenary committee, will form the Review Committee. The Review Committee shall conduct eligibility checks on candidates and incumbent members of FIFA bodies in accordance with the revised Statutes and the FIFA Governance Regulations. The Review Committee shall conduct the independence reviews of candidates and incumbent members of the Audit and Compliance Committee and the judicial bodies as well as of candidates and incumbent members of the standing committees who must fulfil the independence criteria.

Who is subject to eligibility checks and who conducts such checks?

All Council members, including the FIFA President, all members of FIFA committees and judicial bodies as well as the FIFA Secretary General are subject to eligibility checks conducted by the independent Review Committee that is part of the Governance Committee. For the members of the Governance Committee, the

eligibility checks will be conducted by the investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee. The independence reviews with regard to the members of the Review Committee shall also be conducted by the investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee.

What are the criteria that the independent members will have to fulfil?

The independence criteria, which are part of the FIFA Governance Regulations, have been further strengthened and more narrowly defined.

What function will the Chief Compliance Officer have?

The Chief Compliance Officer will, together with the FIFA Compliance Unit, be responsible for overseeing the compliance programme and will report directly to the FIFA Secretary General as well as to the chairperson of the independent Audit and Compliance Committee.

Will the limitation on terms of office be applied retroactively?

No, the limitation will not be applied retroactively. The term limits set forth in the relevant provisions of the revised FIFA Statutes will only apply to existing members of the existing committees as from the date of completion of their current mandates.

How will the FIFA Secretary General be appointed?

In accordance with art. 34 par. 9 of the FIFA Statutes, the Secretary General is appointed and may be dismissed by the Council. The Secretary General will report to the Council and will have the role of CEO of the organisation.

How is FIFA's commitment to human rights reflected?

Article 3 of the FIFA Statutes stipulates FIFA's commitment to respect all internationally recognised human rights. In addition, FIFA shall strive to promote the protection of these rights. More information on FIFA's commitment to human rights may be found [here](#).

