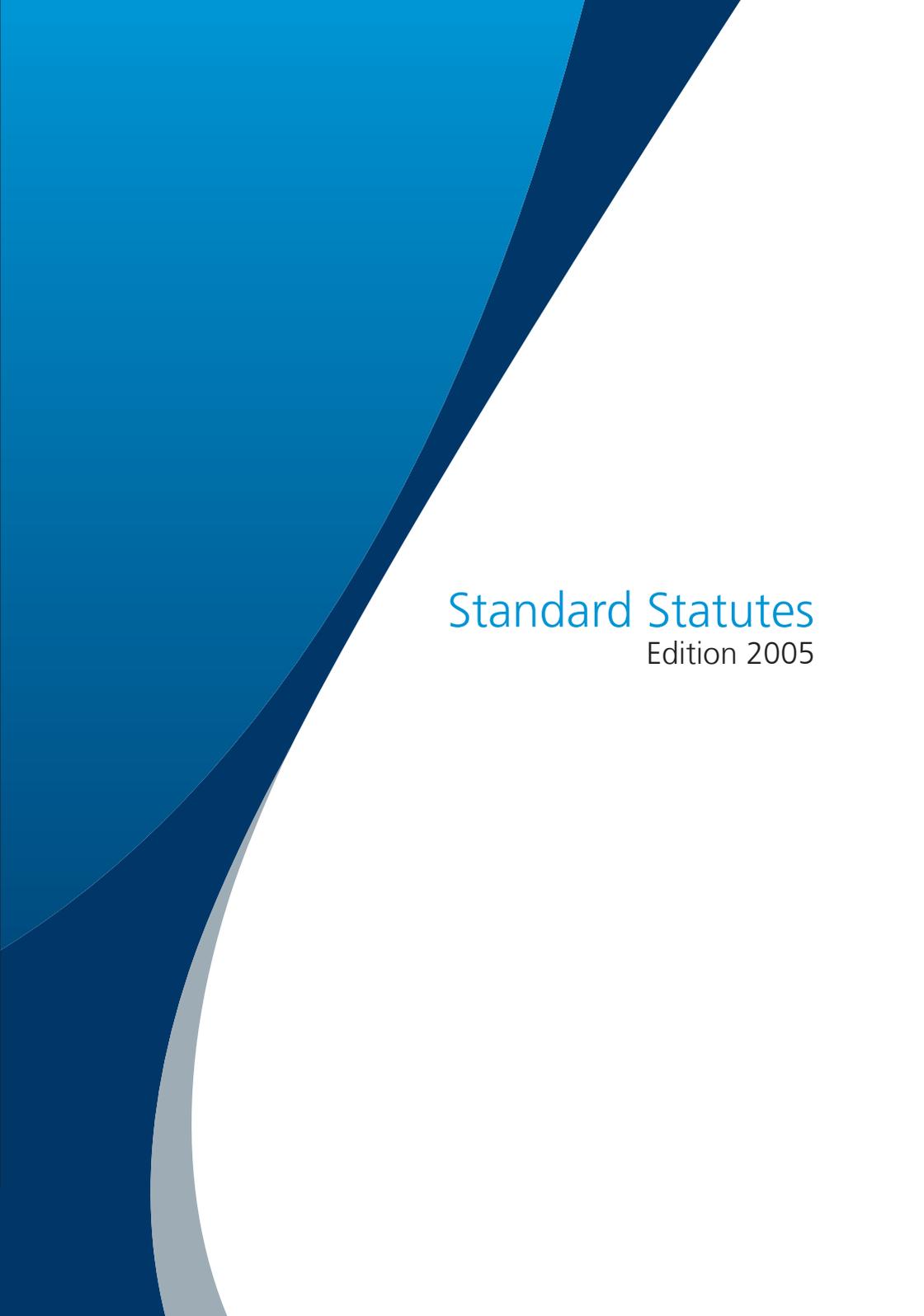


# Standard Statutes

Edition 2005

**FIFA<sup>®</sup>**

*For the Game. For the World.*



# Standard Statutes

Edition 2005

## Fédération Internationale de Football Association

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Statutes form the backbone of an Association, regulating its activities and how it is organised. Moreover, an Association must take care to ensure that its statutes fully comply with the provisions of the FIFA Statutes.

For these very reasons, FIFA decided to compile standard statutes in 2001 and launched a wide-ranging policy of modernisation of the statutes of its members in order to improve the governance of football in each country as well as to strengthen the principles contained in the FIFA Statutes.

By virtue of the new FIFA Statutes, which came into force on 1 January 2004, containing a variety of new articles, content and principles, the FIFA Standard Statutes had to be revised as well to make sure that members incorporate this new content into their own statutes.

In this context FIFA has started to analyse the current statutes of its members to identify potential discrepancies. The result of this evaluation and our prior experiences with the application of the old FIFA Standard Statutes have helped us to improve this document and to make it more user-friendly and give it a clearer structure.

The Standard Statutes contain all the provisions that are intrinsic to any constitutive texts worthy of such description. We are therefore calling upon the Associations to examine these statutes meticulously and incorporate all of the articles and principles covered into their own statutes – for their own benefit and for the Good of the Game.

Joseph S. Blatter  
President

Jérôme Valcke  
Secretary General

Zurich, January 2010

<b>Page</b>	<b>Article</b>
3	<b>WHY STANDARD STATUTES ARE NEEDED?</b>
4	<b>CONTENTS</b>
6	<b>STANDARD STATUTES</b>
7	<b>DEFINITIONS</b>
	<b>I. GENERAL PROVISIONS</b>
9	1-8
	<b>II. MEMBERSHIP</b>
14	9-17
	<b>III. HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBER</b>
22	18
	<b>IV. ORGANISATION</b>
23	19–67
24	A. Congress
34	B. Executive Committee
39	C. President
42	D. Emergency Committee
43	E. Standing Committees
51	F. General Secretariat
53	G. Judicial Bodies

**Page Article****V. FINANCE**

58 68–74

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

61 75–78

**VII. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS**

63 79–81

**VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS**

64 82–84

### Preliminary remarks

1. The following language conventions are used in the interpretation of these statutes:

– “X” replaces the name, abbreviation or acronym of the Association, to be selected by the latter.

– A number of terms or expressions, to be selected by the Association, are represented by just one of the said terms or expressions. Thus:

- “Congress” means “congress”, “general assembly”, “delegates’ meeting” or any other designation, to be selected by the Association;
- “Executive Committee” means “executive committee”, “executive office”, “federal office”, or any other designation, to be selected by the Association;
- “League” means “league”, “regional association” or any other section or subdivision subordinate to the Association, to be selected by the latter.

2. The majorities used in the Standard Statutes are recommendations. An Association may decide whether an absolute majority (50% + 1) or a majority of two-thirds or three-quarters is required to take a valid decision or in an election.

The terms given below denote the following:

... [Abbreviation or acronym of the Association]: full name of the Association

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

**Association:** a football Association recognised by and a Member of FIFA.

**League:** an organisation subordinate to an Association.

**Regional Association:** an organisation subordinate to an Association.

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

**Club:** Member of a football Association (that is itself a Member of FIFA).

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

**Player:** a football player registered with an Association.

**Congress:** the supreme body of X.

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

**Member:** a legal or natural person that has been admitted into membership of X by the Congress.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# 1

## Name, headquarters, legal form

---

*This article shall govern the name, the headquarters and legal form of the Association. Likewise, the Association shall define its affiliation and the corresponding obligations. Furthermore, the Association may define its flag, emblem, logo or abbreviation and protect them legally by registering them with the relevant national and international intellectual property protection bodies.*

1. X is a private organisation of an associative nature [precise legal form to be specified by the Association, as required by the law in force in the country], in compliance with the legislation of ... [name of the country in which the Association has its headquarters] [add as required: "and registered in ... [name of the town or city in which the Association has its headquarters]"]. It is formed for an unlimited period.
2. The headquarters are in ... [insert the name of the town or city, address].
3. X is a Member of FIFA and of ... [abbreviation or acronym of the relevant Confederation].
4. The flag of X is ... [to be completed by the Association].
5. The emblem of X is ... [to be completed by the Association].
6. The logo of X is ... [to be completed by the Association].
7. The abbreviation of X is ... [to be completed by the Association].
8. The flag, emblem, logo and abbreviation are legally registered with ... [relevant national and international intellectual property protection bodies].

## 2 Objectives

---

*This article shall govern the objectives of the Association.*

The objectives of X are:

- a)** to improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of X in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
- b)** to organise competitions in Association Football in all its forms at a national level, by defining precisely, as required, the areas of authority conceded to the various Leagues of which it is composed;
- c)** to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
- d)** to protect the interests of its Members;
- e)** to respect and prevent any infringement of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, of ... [abbreviation or acronym of the relevant Confederation] and X as well as the Laws of the Game and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members;
- f)** to prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardise the integrity of matches or competitions or give rise to abuse of Association Football;
- g)** to control and supervise all friendly football matches of all forms played throughout the territory of X;

- h)** to manage international sporting relations connected with Association Football in all its forms;
- i)** to host competitions at international and other levels;
- j)** ... [possible additional objectives to be specified by the Association].

## 3

### Neutrality and non-discrimination

---

*Political and religious neutrality as well as the fight against racism and the punishment of any kind of discrimination is of great concern to FIFA.*

1. X is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
2. Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.

## 4

### Promoting friendly relations

---

*An Association may include a clause regarding the promotion of friendly relations amongst its Members and all parties involved in the game of football. An Association can thus provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any disputes that may arise between its Members, particularly due to violation of the Laws of the Game and the regulations of the Association.*

1. X shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players and in society for humanitarian objectives.
2. Every person and organisation involved in the game of 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. X shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of X.

## 5 **Players**

---

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

## 6 **Laws of the Game**

---

X 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.

## 7 **Conduct of bodies and Officials**

---

The bodies and Officials of X must observe the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, of ... [abbreviation or acronym of the relevant Confederation, if applicable] and of X [if applicable] in their activities.

## 8 **Official languages**

---

1. The official language(s) of X shall be ... [to be completed by the Association]. Official documents and texts shall be written in this/these language(s). [In the event of any divergence between the interpretation of texts in different languages, the text written in ... [insert the relevant language], shall be regarded as authoritative.]
2. The official language(s) at the Congress shall be ... [to be selected by the Association].

*This chapter shall govern the rights and obligations of the Members of the Association as well as rules regarding the admission, suspension, expulsion and resignation of Members of the Association. As a rule, the Clubs are Members of an Association, but it is also possible that the Leagues, Regional Associations, other groups linked to football and individuals may become a Member of the Association provided that their membership has been approved by the Congress. The Clubs may be indirect Members of the Association through their membership of a League or Regional Association that is a direct Member of the Association. An Association may set up different categories of Members, but it is important that every Member of the same category has the same rights and obligations. An Association shall compose its own catalogue of membership conditions. Only the Congress as the supreme body of the Association shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.*

## 9

### **Admission, suspension and expulsion**

---

1. The Congress shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.
2. Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of X.
3. Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member from its financial obligations towards X or other Members of X, but leads to cancellation of all rights in relation to X.

# 10 Admission

---

1. The Members of X are:

- a) Clubs;
- b) Regional Associations;
- c) Leagues;
- d) Player groups;
- e) referees' groups;
- f) coaches' groups;
- g) ... [to be completed by the Association].

2. Any legal or natural person wishing to become a Member of X shall apply in writing to the general secretariat of X.

3. The application must be accompanied by the following mandatory items:

- a) a copy of its legally valid statutes and regulations;
- b) a declaration that it will always comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of X, FIFA and ... [abbreviation or acronym of the relevant Confederation] and ensure that these are also respected by its own Members, Clubs, Officials and Players;
- c) a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
- d) a declaration that it recognises the Arbitration Court of X [if applicable] and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, as specified in these Statutes;

- e) a declaration that it is located and registered [if legally required] in the territory of X;
- f) a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of X;
- g) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;
- h) a list of Officials, specifying those who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- i) a declaration that it undertakes to organise or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of X;
- j) a copy of the minutes of its last congress or constitutional meeting;
- k) ... [an Association may add further items].

4. This article shall not affect the status of existing Members.

## 11

### Request and procedure for application

---

1. The procedure for admission shall be regulated by special regulations approved by the Executive Committee of X.
2. The Executive Committee shall request the Congress either to admit or not to admit an applicant. The applicant may state the reasons for its application to the Congress.
3. The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted. Its delegates are eligible to vote and be elected with immediate effect.

## 12 Members' rights

---

1. The Members of X have the following rights:

- a) to take part in the Congress of X, 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 X to be elected;
- d) to be informed of the affairs of X through the official bodies of X;
- e) to take part in competitions [if applicable] and/or other sports activities organised by X;
- f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of X.

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

## 13 Members' obligations

---

1. The Members of X have the following obligations:

- a) to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, ... [abbreviation or acronym of the relevant Confederation] and X 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 [if applicable] and other sports activities organised by X;
- d)** to pay their membership subscriptions;
- e)** to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by IFAB 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, ... [abbreviation or acronym of the relevant Confederation], X or the League(s) shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate Arbitration Tribunal of FIFA, ... [abbreviation or acronym of the relevant Confederation] or X and that any recourse to Ordinary Courts is prohibited;
- g)** to communicate to X any amendment of its statutes and regulations as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- h)** not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised or with Members that have been suspended or expelled;
- i)** to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
- j)** to observe the mandatory items specified under article 10 paragraph 3 for the duration of their affiliation;
- k)** to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;

- I)** to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA, ... [abbreviation or acronym of the relevant Confederation] and X.
- 2.** Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes.

## 14 Suspension

---

- 1.** The Congress is responsible for suspending a Member. The Executive Committee may, however, suspend a Member that seriously and repeatedly violates its obligations as a Member with immediate effect. The suspension shall last until the next Congress, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime.
- 2.** A suspension shall be confirmed at the next Congress by ... [number of votes to be completed by the Association, e.g. three-quarter majority] of the votes taken. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted.
- 3.** A suspended Member shall lose its membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.
- 4.** Members that do not participate in the sports activities of X for ... [number of years to be completed by Association] consecutive years shall be suspended from voting at the Congress and their representatives shall not be elected or appointed until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

## 15 Expulsion

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1. The Congress may expel a Member if:

- a) it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards X;
- b) it seriously violates the Statutes, regulations, directives or decisions of FIFA, ... [abbreviation or acronym of the relevant Confederation] and X;
- c) ... [further reasons which may be completed by the Association].

2. The presence of an absolute majority (50% + 1) of Members entitled to vote at the Congress 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.

## 16 Resignation

---

1. A Member may resign from X with effect from the end of ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. a calendar year]. Notice of resignation must reach the general secretariat no later than ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. six months before the end of the calendar year].

2. The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards X and the other Members of X.

## **17** Status of Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations and other groups of Clubs

---

- 1.** Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations or any other groups of Clubs affiliated to X shall be subordinate to and recognised by X. These Statutes define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these Clubs and groups. Their statutes and regulations must be approved by the Executive Committee of X.
- 2.** The affiliated Clubs and groups of X shall take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.
- 3.** In any case, no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

*An Association may bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member.*

## 18 **Honorary president and honorary member**

---

1. The Congress may bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member upon any persons for meritorious service to football.
2. The Executive Committee shall make these nominations.
3. The honorary president or honorary member may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

# 19 Bodies (of the Association)

---

*The bodies are the most important parts of an Association. It cannot exist or act without them. Only the bodies, or persons who are authorised by them, can act with legally binding force for the Association. Therefore, an Association has to define a legislative body, an executive body, an administrative body and judicial bodies. The competences of these bodies shall be well-defined and differentiated and not overlapping. An Association shall ensure the separation of powers and respect the principles of corporate governance (e.g. checks and balances). Using the FIFA Statutes as a reference, these bodies are referred to below as the Congress, Executive Committee, standing committees, general secretariat, Disciplinary Committee and Appeal Committee. In FIFA's view, it is not necessary to install further bodies such as additional regional congresses or regional executive committees.*

- 1.** The Congress is the supreme and legislative body.
- 2.** The Executive Committee is the executive body.
- 3.** Standing and ad-hoc committees shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling its duties. Their duties, composition and function are defined in these Statutes and/or special regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee.
- 4.** The general secretariat is the administrative body.
- 5.** The judicial bodies are the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee.
- 6.** The bodies of X shall be either elected or appointed by X itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes.

## A. CONGRESS

*This chapter shall govern the composition, function and duties of the Congress as the supreme and legislative body of the Association. FIFA recommends that an Ordinary Congress be held on an annual basis. The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time. As a general rule, every Member (or where applicable, each Member of the same category) shall have an equal number of delegates and votes. The requisite majorities and the dates on which any decision passed by the Congress takes effect shall be defined in the Statutes of X.*

# 20

## Definition and composition of the Congress

---

1. The Congress is the meeting at which all of the Members of X regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of X. Only a Congress that is regularly convened has the authority to make decisions.
2. A Congress may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress.
3. The President shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with the standing orders of the Congress.
4. The Congress may appoint observers who take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote.
5. The honorary presidents or honorary members may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

# 21 Delegates and votes

---

1. The Congress is composed of ... [number to be completed by the Association] delegates. The number of delegates is allocated as follows:
  - a) for each Club ... [number to be completed by the Association] delegates;
  - b) for each Regional Association ... [number to be completed by the Association] delegates;
  - c) for each League ... [number to be completed by the Association] delegates;
  - d) ... [to be completed by the Association].
2. Delegates must belong to the Member that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.
3. Each delegate of the same category of Member has an equal number of votes in the Congress. Only the delegates present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
4. The Executive Committee and the General Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights. During their terms of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed as delegates for their association.

## 22 Areas of authority

---

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 ... [number to be completed by the Association] Members to check the minutes and approving the minutes of the last meeting;
- c) electing the President and the vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee;
- d) appointing the scrutineers;
- e) approving the financial statements;
- f) approving the budget;
- g) approving the President's activity report;
- h) appointing the independent auditors upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- 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;
- l) revoking the mandate of one or a number of members of a body of X;
- m) dissolving X;

- n) passing decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with these Statutes;
- o) ... [an association may add further items].

## 23 Quorum of the Congress

---

1. Decisions passed by the Congress shall only be valid if the absolute majority (50% +1) of the Members who are entitled to vote are represented.
2. If a quorum is not achieved, a second Congress shall take place 24 hours [or another period defined by the Association] after the first, with the same agenda.
3. A quorum is not required for the second meeting unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the Statutes of X, the election of the President and election of the vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee, the dismissal of one or a number of members of a body of X, the expulsion of a Member of X or the dissolution of X.

## 24 Decisions of the Congress

---

1. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a simple majority of the Members entitled to vote is sufficient for a vote to be valid. The number of valid votes counted shall decide the majority. Spoiled or blank voting slips or any other forms of abstentions are disregarded in calculating the majority.
2. A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in alphabetical order.

## 25 Elections

---

1. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
2. For a person to be elected, an absolute majority (50% + 1) of the votes recorded and valid is necessary in the first ballot. In the second and any other requisite ballot, a simple majority of the votes recorded is sufficient.
3. If there are more than two candidates for one available position, the candidate that obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two candidates are left.

## 26 Ordinary Congress

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1. The Ordinary Congress shall be held every year.
2. The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date. The Members shall be notified in writing at least ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. three months] in advance.
3. The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least one month before the date of the Congress. This convocation shall contain the agenda, the President's activity report, the financial statements and the auditors' report and any other relevant documents.

## 27 Ordinary Congress agenda

---

1. The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Executive Committee and the Members. Any proposal that a Member wishes to submit to the Congress shall be sent to the general secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. two months] before the date of the Congress.
  
2. The Congress agenda shall include the following mandatory items:
  - a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes of X;
  - 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 Congress;
  - h) President's activity report (containing the activities since the last Congress);
  - i) presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement;
  - j) approval of the financial statements;
  - k) approval of the budget;

- l)** admission for membership (if applicable);
  - m)** votes on proposals for amendments to the Statutes, the regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the standing orders of the Congress (if applicable);
  - n)** discussion of proposals submitted by the Members and the Executive Committee;
  - o)** appointment of independent auditors (if applicable) upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
  - p)** dismissal of a person or a body (if applicable);
  - q)** election of the President, vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee (if applicable);
  - r)** any further items proposed by the Members or the Executive Committee of X.
- 3.** The agenda of an Ordinary Congress may be altered, provided ... [number to be selected by the Association, e.g. three-quarters] of the Members present at the Congress and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.
- 4.** The Congress shall not make a decision on any point not included in the agenda.

## 28 Extraordinary Congress

---

1. The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time.
2. The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress if ... [number to be completed by the Association, e.g. one-fifth] of the Members of X make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary Congress shall be held within three months of receipt of the request. If an Extraordinary Congress is not convened, the Members who requested it may convene the Congress themselves. As a last resort, the Members may request assistance from FIFA.
3. The Members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. one month] before the date of an Extraordinary Congress.
4. 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 Members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Members.
5. The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress may not be altered.

## **29** Amendments to the Statutes, [regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the standing orders of the Congress]

---

- 1.** The Congress is responsible for amending the Statutes, [if applicable, the regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the standing orders of the Congress].
  
- 2.** Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the general secretariat by a Member or by the Executive Committee. A proposal submitted by a Member is valid, provided it has been supported in writing by at least ... [number to be completed by the Association] other Members.
  
- 3.** For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes to be valid, an absolute majority (50% +1) of the Members eligible to vote must be present.
  
- 4.** A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes shall be adopted only if ... [number to be completed by the Association, three-quarters of the Members present is recommended] of the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it.
  
- 5.** Any proposal to amend the regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the standing orders of the Congress must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the general secretariat by a Member or by the Executive Committee.
  
- 6.** A proposal for an amendment to the regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the standing orders of the Congress shall be adopted only if a simple majority of the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it.

## 30 Minutes

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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.

## 31 Effective dates of decisions

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Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect for the Members ... [number of days to be completed by the Association, e.g. 60] days after the close of the Congress, unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

## B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*These articles shall govern the composition and powers of the Executive Committee.*

# 32

## Composition

---

**1.** The Executive Committee consists of ... [number to be completed by the Association] members:

- 1 President
- ... [number to be completed by the Association] vice-presidents
- ... [number to be completed by the Association] members

**2.** The President, the vice-presidents and the members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Congress. Every candidate in the election of Executive Committee members must be proposed by at least one Member.

**3.** The mandate of the President, vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee is for four years. They may be re-elected.

**4.** The members of the Executive Committee shall be no older than ... [age to be completed by the Association] and no younger than ... [age to be completed by the Association]. They shall have already been active in football, must not have been previously found guilty of a criminal offence and have residency within the territory of X.

**5.** Candidatures must be sent to the general secretariat of X. The official list of candidates must be passed to the Members of X along with the agenda for the Congress at which the Executive Committee will be elected.

6. A member of the Executive Committee may not at the same time be a member of a judicial body of X.
7. If a position should become vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill that position until the next Ordinary Congress, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining term of mandate.

## 33 Meetings

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1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. twice a year] a year.
2. The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. 50% of the Executive Committee members] request a meeting, the President shall convene it within 21 days.
3. The President shall compile the agenda. Each member of the Executive Committee is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda. The members of the Executive Committee must submit the points they wish to be included in the agenda for the meeting to the general secretariat at least 14 days [or another period to be fixed by the Association] before the meeting. The agenda must be sent out to the members of the Executive Committee at least seven [or another period to be fixed by the Association] before the meeting.
4. The General Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Executive Committee in a consultative role.
5. The meetings of the Executive Committee shall not be held in public. The Executive Committee may, however, invite third parties to attend. Those third parties shall not have voting rights, and may only express an opinion with the permission of the Executive Committee.

## 34 Powers of the Executive Committee

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The Executive Committee:

- a)** shall pass decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes;
- b)** shall prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of X;
- c)** shall appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees;
- d)** shall appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the judicial bodies;
- e)** may decide to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary at any time;
- f)** shall compile the regulations for the organisation of standing committees and ad-hoc committees;
- g)** shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President. The General Secretary shall attend the meetings of all the committees ex officio;
- h)** shall propose the independent auditors to the Congress;
- i)** shall decide the place and dates of and the number of teams participating in the competitions of X;
- j)** shall appoint the coaches for the representative teams and other technical staff;
- k)** shall approve regulations stipulating how X shall be organised internally;

**l)** shall ensure that the Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;

**m)** may dismiss a person or body or suspend a Member of X provisionally until the next Congress;

**n)** may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of X or third parties.

## 35 Decisions

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- 1.** The Executive Committee shall not engage in valid debate unless ... [a number to be fixed by the Association, that must constitute a majority] of its members are present.
- 2.** The Executive Committee shall reach decisions by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
- 3.** Any member of the Executive Committee must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interests.
- 4.** The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 5.** The decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall come into effect immediately, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

## 36 Dismissal of a person or body

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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. Any Executive Committee member may submit a proposal to place such a motion for dismissal on the agenda of the Executive Committee or Congress.
2. The motion for dismissal must be justified. It will be sent to the Members of X along with the agenda.
3. The person or body in question has the right to speak in his or its own defence.
4. If the motion for dismissal is upheld, the Congress 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.
5. The person or body dismissed (provisionally) must be relieved of his or its functions with immediate effect.

## C. PRESIDENT

*This article governs the duties, powers and election of the President of X as a legal representative.*

# 37 President

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1. The President represents X legally.
2. He is primarily responsible for:
  - a) implementing the decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee through the general secretariat;
  - b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of X in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
  - c) supervising the work of the general secretariat;
  - d) relations between X and its Members, FIFA, ... [abbreviation or acronym of the relevant Confederation], political bodies and other organisations.
3. Only the President may propose the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary.
4. The President shall preside over the Congress, the Executive Committee and Emergency 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 longest serving vice-president available shall deputise.
7. Any additional powers of the President shall be contained in the internal organisation regulations of X.

## 38

### Candidates for the office of the President

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1. The President shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four years. His mandate shall begin after the end of the Congress which has elected him. A President may be re-elected.
2. For the election of the President, ... [number of votes to be completed by the Association, two-thirds of the votes is recommended] of the votes recorded and valid are necessary in the first ballot. In the second and any other requisite ballot, an absolute majority of the votes recorded (50% + 1) is sufficient. If there are more than two candidates, the candidate that obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two candidates are left.
3. Only Members of X 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 X at least ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. 2 months] month(s) before the date of the Congress.
4. The general secretariat shall notify the Members of the names of the proposed candidates at least ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. 1 month] month(s) before the date of the Congress.
5. If the President is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his official function, the longest serving vice-president shall represent him until the next Congress. This Congress shall elect a new President, if necessary.

## 39 Representation and signature

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The President represents X legally and is entitled to sign for X. The Executive Committee may set up internal organisation regulations regarding the joint signature of officers, in particular, in case of the President's absence and concerning all important business of X.

## D. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*An Association may set up an Emergency Committee competent for all matters requiring immediate settlement between two meetings of the Executive Committee.*

# 40

## Emergency Committee

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1. The Emergency Committee shall deal with all matters requiring immediate settlement between two meetings of the Executive Committee. The Committee shall consist of the President of X and ... [number to be completed by the Association, e.g. 5] members chosen from amongst the Association's Members and appointed by the Executive Committee for a period of ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. 4 years].
2. The President shall convene the Emergency Committee meetings. If a meeting cannot be convened within an appropriate period of time, decisions may be passed through other means of communication. Such decisions shall have immediate legal effect. The President shall notify the Executive Committee immediately of the decisions passed by the Emergency Committee.
3. All decisions taken by the Emergency Committee shall be ratified by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.
4. If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the longest serving vice-president available shall deputise.

## E. STANDING COMMITTEES

*These articles shall govern the composition, function and duties of the standing committees. The Association may constitute as many committees as necessary.*

# 41 Standing Committees

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1. The standing committees of X are:
  - a) Finance Committee;
  - b) Internal Audit Committee;
  - c) Organising Committee for X competitions;
  - d) Technical and Development Committee;
  - e) Referees' Committee;
  - f) Legal Committee;
  - g) Women's Football Committee;
  - h) Youth Football Committee;
  - i) Futsal Committee;
  - j) Sports Medical Committee;
  - k) Players' Status Committee;
  - l) Committee for Ethics and Fair Play;
  - m) Media Committee;

- n) Football Committee;
- o) Strategic Studies Committee;
- p) Marketing and Television Advisory Board;
- q) ... [to be completed by the Association].

**2.** The chairmen and deputy chairmen of the standing committees shall be members of the Executive Committee with the exception of those for the Internal Audit Committee, who may not belong to the Executive Committee. The members of each standing committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee on the proposal of the Members of X or the President of X. The chairmen, deputy chairmen and the members of the standing committees shall be designated for a term of office of four years.

**3.** Each chairman shall represent his committee and conduct business in compliance with the relevant organisation regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee.

**4.** 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.

**5.** Each committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Committee.

## 42 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 X and the financial statements prepared by the General Secretary and submit them to the Executive Committee for approval. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 43 Internal Audit Committee

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The Internal Audit Committee shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting and review the external auditors' report at the request of the Executive Committee. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 44 Organising Committee for X competitions

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The Organising Committee for X competitions shall organise the competitions of X in compliance with the provisions of these Statutes and the regulations applicable to X competitions. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 45 Technical and Development Committee

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The Technical and Development Committee shall primarily analyse the basic aspects of football training and technical development. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 46 Referees' Committee

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The Referees' Committee shall implement the Laws of the Game. It shall appoint the referees for matches in competitions organised by X, organise refereeing matters within X in collaboration with the administration of X and monitor the education and training of referees. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 47 Legal Committee

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The Legal Committee shall analyse basic legal issues relating to football and the evolution of the Statutes and regulations of X and its Members. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 48 Women's Football Committee

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The Committee for Women's Football shall organise women's football competitions and deal with all matters relating to women's football. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 49 Youth Football Committee

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The Committee for Youth Football shall organise youth football competitions and deal with all matters relating to youth football. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 50 Futsal Committee

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The Futsal Committee shall organise futsal competitions and deal with all matters relating to futsal. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 51 Sports Medical Committee

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The Sports Medical Committee shall deal with all medical aspects of football. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 52 **Players' Status Committee**

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1. 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 X. The Executive Committee may draw up special regulations governing the Players' Status Committee's powers of jurisdiction. The Players' Status Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.
2. Players' status disputes involving X, its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents shall be settled by an Arbitration Tribunal in accordance with these Statutes.

## 53 **Committee for Ethics and Fair Play**

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The Committee for Ethics and Fair Play shall deal with everything relating to ethics in football and the promotion of fair play. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 54 **Media Committee**

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The Media Committee shall deal with the working conditions for the media at X events and maintain relations with media organisations. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 55 Football Committee

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The Football Committee shall deal with general issues in football but primarily with its structure as well as relations between Clubs, Leagues, Members, ... [acronym of appropriate Confederation] and FIFA. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 56 Strategic Studies Committee

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The Strategic Studies Committee shall deal with global strategies for football and its political, economic and social status. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 57 Marketing and Television Advisory Board

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The Marketing and Television Advisory Board shall advise the Executive Committee with regard to drafting and implementing contracts between X and its marketing/television partners and analyse marketing and television strategies that have been devised. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and ... [number to be completed by the Association] members.

## 58 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 drawn up by the Executive Committee. An ad-hoc committee shall report directly to the Executive Committee.

## F. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

*This section shall govern the duties and the work of the general secretariat as the administrative body and the General Secretary as the chief executive of the secretariat. He shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.*

### 59 General secretariat

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The general secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of X under the direction of the General Secretary. The members of the general secretariat are bound by the internal organisational regulations of X and shall fulfil the given tasks in the best manner.

### 60 General Secretary

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1. The General Secretary is the chief executive of the general secretariat.
2. He shall be appointed on the basis of an agreement governed by private law and shall have the necessary professional qualifications.
3. He shall be responsible for:
  - a) implementing decisions passed by the Congress and Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
  - b) attending the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee, Emergency Committee and the standing and ad-hoc committees;
  - c) organising the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee and other bodies;

- d)** compiling the minutes for the meetings of the Congress, Executive Committee, Emergency Committee and standing and ad-hoc committees;
- e)** managing and keeping the accounts of X properly;
- f)** the correspondence of X;
- g)** relations with the Members, committees, FIFA and ... [acronym of appropriate Confederation];
- h)** organising the general secretariat;
- i)** the appointment and dismissal of staff working in the general secretariat;
- j)** proposing managerial staff to the President.

**4.** The General Secretary may not be a Congress delegate or a member of any body of X.

## G. JUDICIAL BODIES

*This section shall govern the composition and duties of the judicial bodies. FIFA recommends the constitution of two judicial bodies: a Disciplinary Committee and an Appeal Committee. The Disciplinary Committee shall deal with any internal violation of the regulations of FIFA, ... [abbreviation or acronym of the relevant Confederation] and X (e.g. Statutes, Disciplinary Code, Laws of the Game, regulations). An appeal may be lodged before the Appeal Committee of X against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee.*

# 61

## Judicial bodies

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1. The judicial bodies of X are:
  - a) the Disciplinary Committee;
  - b) the Appeal Committee.
2. The responsibilities and functions of these bodies shall be stipulated in the Disciplinary Code of X, which shall comply with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
3. The decision-making powers of other committees remain unaffected.
4. The members of the judicial bodies may not belong to any other body of X at the same time.

## 62 Disciplinary Committee

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1. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. The chairman and the deputy chairman shall have legal qualifications.
2. The function of this body shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of X. The committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, the chairman may rule alone in accordance with the Disciplinary Code of X.
3. The committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the Disciplinary Code of X on Members, Officials, Players, Clubs and match and players' agents.
4. These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and the Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members.

## 63 Appeal Committee

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1. 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.
2. The function of this body shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of X. The committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, the chairman may rule alone in accordance with the Disciplinary Code of X.
3. The Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee that are not declared final.

# 64

## Disciplinary measures

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*To ensure uniformity, the Associations are requested to adopt the disciplinary measures described in the FIFA Statutes.*

The disciplinary measures are primarily:

1. for natural and legal persons:

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

2. for natural persons:

- a) a caution;
- b) an expulsion;
- c) a match suspension;
- d) a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
- e) a ban from entering a stadium;
- f) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity.

3. for legal persons:

- a) a transfer ban;
- b) playing a match without spectators;
- c) playing a match on neutral territory;
- d) a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- e) annulment of the result of the match;
- f) expulsion;
- g) a forfeit;
- h) deduction of points;
- i) relegation to a lower division.

## 65 Arbitration

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*The Association may set up an Arbitration Tribunal, which deals with all internal disputes between the Association, its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents that do not fall under the jurisdiction of its judicial bodies.*

X shall create an Arbitration Tribunal, which shall deal with all internal national disputes between X, its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents that do not fall under the jurisdiction of its judicial bodies. The Executive Committee shall draw up special regulations regarding the composition, jurisdiction and procedural rules of this Arbitration Tribunal.

## 66 Jurisdiction

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1. X, its Members, Players, Officials and match and player's agents will not take any dispute to Ordinary Courts unless specifically provided for in these Statutes and FIFA regulations. Any disagreement shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of FIFA, ... [abbreviation or acronym of the relevant Confederation] or X.
2. X shall have jurisdiction on internal national disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to X. FIFA shall have jurisdiction on international disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to different Associations and/or Confederations.

## 67 Court of Arbitration for Sport

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1. In accordance with Articles 59 and 60 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.
2. X shall ensure its full compliance and that of its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents with any final decision passed by a FIFA body or CAS.

*This section shall govern financial provisions such as the financial period, revenue, expenses, auditors, membership subscriptions, settlement and levies.*

## 68 Financial period

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1. The financial period of X shall be ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. one year] year and shall begin on ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. 1 January] and end on ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. 31 December].
2. The revenue and expenses of X shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. X's major duties in the future shall be guaranteed through the creation of reserves.
3. The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of X with its subsidiaries as at ... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. 31 December].

## 69 Revenue

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The revenue of X arises specifically from:

- a) Members' annual subscriptions;
- b) receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which X is entitled;
- c) fines imposed by the authorised bodies;
- d) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by X.

## 70 Expenses

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X 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;
- c) all other expenses in keeping with the objectives pursued by X.

## 71 Independent auditors

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The independent auditors appointed by the Congress shall audit the accounts approved by the Finance Committee in accordance with the appropriate principles of accounting and present a report to the Congress. The auditors shall be appointed for a period of ... [to be completed by the Association]. This mandate may be renewed.

## 72 Membership subscriptions

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1. Membership subscriptions are due on ... [to be completed by the Association]. The annual subscription for new Members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the Congress at which they are admitted.
2. The Congress shall fix the amount of the annual subscription every ... [to be completed by the Association] years on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. It shall be the same for every Member and amount to no more than ... [to be completed by the Association].

## 73 Settlement

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

## 74 Levies

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

## 75 Competitions

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1. X organises and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territory:

... [to be completed by the Association, e.g. championship, cup]

2. The Executive Committee may delegate to X's subordinate Leagues the authority to organise competitions. The competitions organised by the Leagues shall not interfere with those competitions organised by X. Competitions organised by X shall take priority.

3. The Executive Committee may issue special regulations to this end.

## 76 Club licensing

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The Executive Committee of X will set up regulations regarding a club licensing system governing the participation of Clubs in competitions of X.

## 77 Rights

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1. X 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.

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

## 78 Authorisation

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

## 79 International matches and competitions

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1. The authority for organising international matches and competitions between Association teams and between Leagues and/or Club 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 may be required in accordance with the FIFA regulations.
2. X is bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

## 80 Contacts

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X 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.

## 81 Approval

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Clubs, Leagues or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to X cannot belong to another Association or participate in competitions on the territory of another Association without the authorisation of X and the other Association and of FIFA, except in exceptional circumstances.

*This section governs provisions such as unforeseen contingencies, force majeure, the dissolution of X and the enforcement of the Statutes of X.*

## 82 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.

## 83 Dissolution

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1. Any decision relating to the dissolution of X requires a majority of two-thirds [or any other majority as stipulated in the applicable national legislation] of all of the Members of X, which must be obtained at a Congress specially convened for the purpose.
2. If X is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to ... [to be completed by the Association]. It shall hold these assets in trust as “bonus pater familiae” until X is re-established. The final Congress may, however, choose another recipient for the assets on the basis of a two-thirds majority [or any other majority as stipulated in the applicable national legislation].

## 84 Enforcement

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These Statutes were adopted at the Congress in ... [to be completed by the Association] on ... [to be completed by the Association] and will come into force on ... [to be completed by the Association].



