

FAQ elections – Extraordinary FIFA Congress

- **What is the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee? What are its duties?**

The Ad-hoc Electoral Committee is established to oversee the electoral process for the office of FIFA president. It evaluates the eligibility of prospective candidates and supervises the manner in which the candidates carry out their campaigns, i.e. that they are conducted in a fair and reputable manner, in full compliance with FIFA's statutes and regulations.

The duties of the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee are listed in article 8 of the [Electoral Regulations](#).

- **When was the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee set up? Who are its members?**

For an appropriate period of time in the context of the FIFA presidential elections, the FIFA Executive Committee shall set up an Ad-hoc Electoral Committee (cf. art. 7 par. 1 of the [Electoral Regulations](#)). Accordingly, ahead of the upcoming elections for the office of FIFA President, the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee was set up by the FIFA Executive Committee on 20 July 2015.

As stated in article 7.2 of the [Electoral Regulations](#) for the FIFA Presidency, the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee shall be composed of the chairman of the [FIFA Disciplinary Committee](#), the chairman of the [FIFA Appeal Committee](#) and the chairman of the [FIFA Audit and Compliance Committee](#).

Prior to the final review process of the candidatures, the chairmen of the [FIFA Appeal Committee](#) and the [FIFA Disciplinary Committee](#), Larry Mussenden (Bermuda) and Claudio Sulser (Switzerland) respectively, withdrew from their positions in the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee to avoid any appearance of a potential conflict of interest. As provided for by the [Electoral Regulations](#), Fernando Mitjans (Argentina), as the deputy chairman of the [FIFA Appeal Committee](#), replaced Larry Mussenden, and Lim Kia Tong (Singapore), as the deputy chairman of the [FIFA Disciplinary Committee](#), replaced Claudio Sulser.

Hence, the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee is composed of the deputy chairman of the [FIFA Disciplinary Committee](#) (Lim Kia Tong), the deputy chairman of the [FIFA Appeal Committee](#) (Fernando Mitjans) and the chairman of the [FIFA Audit and Compliance Committee](#) (Domenico Scala). In conformity with art. 7 par. 2 of the [Electoral Regulations for the FIFA Presidency](#), Domenico Scala was appointed as the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee chairman.

- **What was the deadline for candidates to declare their interest formally?**

Member associations must notify the FIFA general secretariat, in writing, of a candidature for the FIFA presidency at least four months before the start of the Elective Congress, together with the declarations of support of at least five members (cf. art. 24 par. 1 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)). As the Extraordinary Congress will take place on 26 February 2016, the deadline for notification was 26 October 2015.

Following the required regulatory assessments, it was up to the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee to formally admit and declare the candidates eligible for the election of the office of FIFA President.

- **How does the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee evaluate the eligibility of the prospective candidates and who is in charge of conducting integrity checks?**

FIFA's general secretariat is responsible for forwarding the submitted applications to the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee for examination and for a decision on the admission of the candidate to the FIFA presidential elections.

Before the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee makes a decision on the admission of a candidate, it will, upon receipt of the proposed candidatures, forward them to the investigatory chamber of the [Ethics Committee](#) to carry out the integrity check within the ten-day deadline specified – cf. art. 8 par. 1 (e) and art.15 par. 2 of the [Electoral Regulations](#) and art. 13 par. 2 of the [FIFA Statutes](#). The investigatory chamber will collect all relevant facts about the candidate, but it will not decide on the question of whether or not a candidate is eligible. Upon receipt of the integrity check, the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee will reconvene in order to review all of the submissions made and to take a decision on the admission and declaration of the proposed candidates.

- **What specifically do the integrity checks consist of?**

Pursuant to [FIFA's Electoral Regulations](#) and the [FIFA Organisation Regulations](#), the investigatory chamber of the [Ethics Committee](#) conducts integrity checks on the candidates. This two-step process involves first creating detailed reports of risk-relevant information relating to each candidate. The integrity check includes a review of corporate records, litigation cases, bankruptcy proceedings, potential regulatory actions taken against the candidate and a review of media reports concerning potential red flags (fraudulent behaviour, match manipulation, human rights violations, etc.). Each candidate is then asked to comment on the content of the detailed report produced. The outcome of the report, the reply from the person subject to the integrity check and the completed declaration of integrity form (as per the relevant annexes of the [FIFA Organisation Regulations](#)) are then submitted to the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee.

- **Which candidates have been admitted by the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee?**

- HRH Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein
- Shk. Salman Bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa
- Jérôme Champagne
- Gianni Infantino
- Tokyo Sexwale

Further details are available in the following [circular letter](#) sent to FIFA's member associations on 26 January 2016.

- **Can candidates appeal if they are judged to be ineligible?**

According to article 8 par. 2 of the [Electoral Regulations](#), “the decisions of the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee may be appealed against directly with the Court of Arbitration for Sport.”

- **Are there any restrictions as to what the candidates can do during the election period?**

While candidates who hold positions within association football are permitted to remain in office during their election campaign, there are indeed certain aspects to be considered. All candidates are bound by the [FIFA Code of Ethics](#) and may be subject to investigations in cases of irregularities. Candidates must avoid conflicts of interest, in particular in the context of campaign funding. Furthermore, campaign activities by candidates holding official positions must not be mixed with activities carried out under the current office of the candidates concerned.

- **Can FIFA staff endorse a particular candidate?**

FIFA staff are not permitted to endorse a particular candidate or to take part in any way in the respective election campaigns.

- **Will there be any major changes in the election process compared to the election that took place at the 65th FIFA Congress?**

No. The election process will remain the same, which means:

- The FIFA President shall be elected by a secret ballot of the FIFA Congress, in accordance with the [FIFA Statutes](#) and the [Standing Orders of the Congress](#).
- The elections shall be conducted by secret ballot with ballot papers (cf. art. 27 par. 1 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and art. 10 par. 1 of the [Standing Orders of the Congress](#)). At the beginning of the first session, the Congress shall appoint an adequate number of scrutineers (cf. art. 25 par. 2 (e) of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and art. 3 of the [Standing Orders of the Congress](#)). The Secretary General, assisted by the scrutineers, shall conduct the distribution and counting of the ballot papers (cf. art. 10 par. 1 of the [Standing Orders of the Congress](#)) and be responsible for ensuring that the process is properly documented. The number of ballot papers that have been distributed shall be announced by the chair of the Congress before the count (cf. art. 10 par. 2 of the [Standing Orders of the Congress](#)). A public notary will participate in the election procedure.

- **How many votes are necessary in order for a candidate to be elected?**

For the election of the FIFA President, two-thirds of the votes of the members present and eligible to vote are necessary in the first ballot. In the second and any other requisite ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient. If there are more than two candidates for the office of FIFA President, whoever obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two candidates are left (cf. art. 27 par. 3 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).

- **Can member associations abstain from voting?**

According to the [FIFA Statutes](#), member associations can abstain from voting.

- **Will the candidates be entitled to address the Congress?**

On the day of the Congress, before the voting is opened, the candidates shall have the opportunity to present their programme to the Congress (cf. art. 17 par. 2 of the [Electoral Regulations](#)).

- **Can candidates withdraw ahead of or during the Congress?**

Yes, a candidate can formally withdraw from the election process ahead of or during the Congress. Ahead of the Congress, such a decision needs to be officially communicated to the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee. During the Congress, the decision needs to be officially communicated by the candidate at the latest before the start of each ballot.

- **When will the voting procedure start and how long will it take?**

It is currently not possible to foresee how long the voting procedure will take as it will depend on a variety of factors, including the amount of candidates and ballots.

- **How is the final result announced?**

The counting and declaring of the results shall take place in accordance with the relevant provisions of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and the [Standing Orders of the Congress](#). The chair shall announce the result of each ballot (cf. art. 10 par. 4 of the [Standing Orders of the Congress](#)).

- **When will the new President take over?**

The mandate of the President-elect shall begin after the end of the Congress that elected him (cf. art. 30 par. 2 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).

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