

Statutory reforms FAQ – Extraordinary FIFA Congress

- **What are the reforms that will be put before the FIFA Congress as proposed statutory changes for approval at its extraordinary session in Zurich on 26 February?**

The principles and recommendations for reform at FIFA were presented by the 2016 FIFA Reform Committee to the FIFA Executive Committee on 3 December 2015. You can read the concrete proposals [here](#). The draft of the proposed amended FIFA Statutes is available [here](#).

- **What is the voting procedure required for the reforms to be approved?**

As stated in article 26.3 of the current edition of the [FIFA Statutes](#), “for a vote on an amendment to the Statutes to be valid, an absolute majority (more than 50%) of the members eligible to vote must be present”.

In line with article 26.4, “a proposal to adopt or amend the Statutes shall be adopted if approved by three-quarters of the members present and eligible to vote”.

- **Can the Congress propose amendments to the suggested reforms?**

Yes. As stated in article 26.1, “the Congress is responsible for adopting and amending the Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress”.

- **If approved, when will the reforms be implemented?**

In accordance with art. 29 of the current edition of the FIFA Statutes, “decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect for the members sixty [60] days after the close of the Congress, unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect”.

- **What happens after the sixty-day period ends?**

Sixty days after the close of the Congress, the Executive Committee will automatically become the “FIFA Council”. The incumbent members of the Executive Committee on that date will be the first serving members of the Council. Subject to the transitional provisions contained in the proposed revised FIFA Statutes, all other approved statutory changes will also come into force.

- **How will the role of the FIFA Council differ from the role 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 FIFA Council and the FIFA 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 practice from other industries.

- **If approved, how and when will the members of the FIFA Council be elected?**

FIFA Council members will be elected by the FIFA member associations on the occasion of their respective confederation congresses. Meanwhile, members of the FIFA Executive Committee will serve on the new FIFA Council until the end of their existing, respective mandates.

- **When will all 37 members of the FIFA Council be elected?**

The FIFA Congress will elect, amongst others, the President. The FIFA vice-presidents and members of the Council will be elected by FIFA's member associations on the occasion of their confederation congresses in accordance with FIFA Statutes and regulations. The date of the Council members' election therefore depends on the date of the respective confederation congresses. Each member association shall have an equal number of votes in the elections.

The FIFA Council will be comprised of a total of 37 members after all officials have been elected.

- **How will the eligibility checks for the candidates for the positions of vice-president or member of the Council be conducted?**

The confederations will be requested to submit the identification details of the candidates for the positions of vice-president or member of the Council to the FIFA general secretariat at least four months before the start of the respective confederation congress. The Review Committee (cf. information below) shall carry out the eligibility check within 21 days of receipt of the respective candidature from the FIFA general secretariat and pass a decision on the eligibility of the candidate concerned.

- **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 will be stipulated in the FIFA Governance Regulations.

- **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 proposed 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.

- **When will the Governance Committee and the Review Committee be established? Who will perform the eligibility checks until then?**

The Governance Committee and the Review Committee, pending approval of the proposed revised Statutes, are scheduled to be established at the ordinary FIFA Congress on 12-13 May 2016 in Mexico City. Until the establishment of the Governance Committee and the Review Committee, the eligibility checks will be conducted by the Audit and Compliance Committee.

- **Who performs the eligibility checks and independence reviews for the Governance Committee and Review Committee?**

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

- **What will be the setup 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 FIFA 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.

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

The independence criteria, which will be part of the FIFA Governance Regulations, have been further strengthened and more narrowly defined (cf. definition in [Annexe 3](#) of the 2016 FIFA Reform Committee Report).

- **How will eligibility checks be implemented?**

All FIFA Council members, including the FIFA President, all members of FIFA standing committees as well as the FIFA Secretary General will be subject to eligibility checks conducted by the independent FIFA 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.

- **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 proposed revised 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.

- **What is the purpose of the annual member associations conference to be organised by FIFA?**

The purpose is to involve the member associations more closely. For this purpose, FIFA will organise, at least once a year, a conference involving all member associations to promote the core values and mission of FIFA and address strategic issues of high relevance for the international football community, such as, for instance, football development, integrity, social responsibility, governance, human rights, racism, match-fixing, gender equality, protection of clean athletes and youth players, and security.

- **Which standing committees will be abolished and on what basis?**

If approved, the number of standing committees will be reduced from twenty-six (26) to nine (9). This reform is designed to improve the efficiency of the decision-making processes within FIFA while at the same time ensuring a more meaningful and inclusive involvement of the member associations.

With regard to the standing committees that will no longer exist under the new Statutes, the Council will determine when they are to be disbanded and when the newly established standing committees will take up their activities. The members of the committees which continue to exist will conclude their terms of office for which they have already been appointed.

- **How will the female members of the FIFA Council be selected?**

The female members of the Council are elected in the same manner as their male counterparts: by the member associations on the occasion of the respective confederation congresses for a term of four years.

The members of each confederation must ensure that they elect at least one female member to the Council. In the event that no female candidate is elected by the members of a confederation to the Council, the seat reserved for a female member of that confederation will be deemed to have been forfeited and will remain vacant until the next election of members of the Council.

- **How is the role of the FIFA President affected by the reforms?**

The FIFA President's term will be limited to a maximum of three terms of office (whether consecutive or not) of four years. Previous terms served as a vice-president or as a member of the Council will not be considered.

According to the newly proposed FIFA Statutes, the President represents FIFA generally and shall aim to foster a positive image of FIFA and to ensure that FIFA's mission, strategic direction, policies and values, as defined by the Council, are protected and advanced. The President shall have one ordinary vote on the Council.

- **How is FIFA's commitment to human rights reflected?**

Article 3 of the newly proposed 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.

- ***Do the reforms comprise the disclosure of individual compensation?***

Yes, as stated in article 51 par. 10 of the proposed FIFA Statutes, "the Compensation Sub-Committee shall in particular define Compensation Rules and determine the compensation of the FIFA President, the members of the Council and the FIFA Secretary General. The individual compensation of the FIFA President, the members of the Council and the FIFA Secretary General shall be made public."

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