



**RULES GOVERNING THE PROCEDURES OF THE AIFF
PLAYERS' STATUS COMMITTEE**

2020

ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION



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Chapter I: General Provisions

Article 1: Scope

- 1.1 The procedures of the AIFF Players' Status Committee shall be conducted in accordance with these rules.
- 1.2 Any provisions in the AIFF Constitution or other AIFF regulations that deviate from these rules shall have precedence over the provisions of these rules.

Article 2: Applicable law

- 2.1 In the exercise of its jurisdiction the AIFF Players' Status Committee shall apply the statutes and regulations issued by the AIFF, in particular those adopted on the basis of the statutes and regulations implemented by FIFA, the world governing body of football. The AIFF Players' Status Committee shall also take into account all agreements and laws, particularly with regard to labour law, and/or collective bargaining agreements that exist at national level in India, as well as the specificity of sport.

Article 3: Jurisdiction of the AIFF Players' Status Committee

- 3.1 The AIFF Players' Status Committee is competent to adjudicate on any of the matters as provided under article 28.1 (i), (ii), (iii), (v) and (viii) of the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players as well as on all other disputes arising from the application of these Regulations, including on matters otherwise under the jurisdiction of the NDRC as per the NDRC Regulations till such time as the NDRC is established and/or functional as per the NDRC Regulations.
- 3.2 The competency of the AIFF Players' Status Committee to adjudicate on matters otherwise under the jurisdiction of the NDRC, till such time as the NDRC is established, shall be an interim measure and the provisions of Article 31.2 of the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players shall be applicable to these rules.
- 3.3 Subject to other provisions, proceedings before the AIFF Players' Status Committee shall be conducted in accordance with these rules.

Article 4: Composition

- 4.1 AIFF Players' Status Committee shall comprise of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and as many members as appointed by the AIFF Executive Committee, in accordance to the AIFF Constitution.

Article 5: General Procedural Principles

- 5.1 The AIFF Players' Status Committee shall conduct the proceedings and monitor compliance with these procedural regulations.
- 5.2 All persons involved in legal application and adjudication processes shall act in good faith.
- 5.3 All persons' party to proceedings are obliged to tell the truth to the AIFF Players' Status Committee.
- 5.4 A claim shall be dealt with by the AIFF Players' Status Committee only if there is a legitimate reason for dealing with the claim.
- 5.5 The AIFF Players' Status Committee shall determine the facts of a case according to its best judgement. All persons involved in the proceedings and all persons' subject to the regulations of AIFF shall assist in determining the facts of a case.
- 5.6 The AIFF Players' Status Committee shall perform the duties entrusted to it with due expedition.
- 5.7 Members of the AIFF Players' Status Committee may not perform different functions in the same matter. They shall refrain from attempting to influence other bodies and committees and shall maintain strict confidentiality concerning all information that comes to their attention while exercising their office and is not mentioned in the decision. They are, in particular, obliged to respect the secrecy of deliberations.
- 5.8 Subject to any provisions to the contrary, all parties in the proceedings shall be granted the right to be heard, the right to present evidence, the right for evidence leading to a decision to be inspected, the right to access files and the right to a motivated decision.

Chapter II: Procedural Regulations

Article 6: Parties

- 6.1 The parties shall be the AIFF Accredited Youth Academies, clubs, players, coaches, support staff and licensed intermediaries who engage in footballing activities in India under the auspices of the AIFF or a Member Association or an Associate Member of the AIFF or their affiliated units, namely the district associations.
- 6.2 Parties may appoint a representative. A written power of attorney (or a *vakalatnama*) is to be requested from such representatives. If a party is ordered to appear in person, the party shall obey the summons.
- 6.3 Parties requesting the opening of proceedings shall be sent written confirmation when the request has been received. Parties affected by the opening of proceedings must be notified thereof without delay.

Article 7: Withdrawal and challenges

- 7.1 Members of the AIFF Players' Status Committee may not exercise their office in any cases in which they have a personal and/or direct interest. The member in question shall disclose the reasons for withdrawing in sufficient time.
- 7.2 Members of the AIFF Players' Status Committee may be challenged by the parties if there is legitimate doubt as to their independence and impartiality. A challenge shall be made within five days of the grounds for the challenge coming to light, otherwise the parties shall forfeit the right to make a challenge. Motions shall be substantiated and, if possible, supported by evidence. If the member concerned disputes the allegations raised, the AIFF Players' Status Committee shall reach a decision on the challenge in the absence of the member concerned.
- 7.3 If the AIFF Players' Status Committee is no longer able to function as a consequence of challenges, the AIFF Executive Committee shall make a final decision on the challenges and, if necessary, appoint an ad-hoc committee to deal with the substance of the case.

Article 8: Procedural form

- 8.1 As a general rule, proceedings shall be conducted in writing.

Article 9: Communication with the Parties

- 9.1 As a general principle, all communications with the parties in the proceedings shall be conducted by e-mail or registered mail/speed-post or courier. Electronic notification by e-mail is considered a valid means of communication and will be deemed sufficient to establish time limits and their observance. Alternatively, submissions may also be transmitted by registered mail/speed-post or courier. In contrast, submissions transmitted by fax shall have no legal effect.
- 9.2 Submissions by the parties transmitted by e-mail shall be addressed to **psd@the-aiff.com** or if through registered mail/speed-post or courier, then it shall be addressed to: **All India Football Federation, Football House, Sector 19, Phase 1, Dwarka, New Delhi – 110075.**
- 9.3 In case of submissions *vide* email, only those communications which have been submitted as PDF files, containing the date and a valid and binding signature shall have legal effect. In case of submissions *vide* registered mail/speed-post/ courier, only those communications which have been submitted with a valid and binding signature of the parties and/or their legal representatives shall have legal effect.
- 9.4 Communications from AIFF shall be sent to the parties in the proceedings preferably by using the e-mail address provided by the parties or as provided in the AIFF CRS. The parties must ensure that their contact details (e.g. address, telephone number and email address) are valid and kept up to date at all times.
- 9.5 Parties are obliged to comply with the instructions provided in the communications sent by AIFF.

Article 10: Petitions and Statements

- 10.1 The parties shall draw up their petition and statements in English. If a party wishes to, it may also submit documents in vernacular language(s) with duly translated records in English of the same, and where, in the event of any doubt, omission or contradiction whatsoever between the vernacular version and the English version, the latter shall prevail. As part of the petition, a party is also required to indicate, along with their petition and prayer(s):
- (i) the surname, first name, capacity and address (including e-mail address) of the petitioner and/or her or his representative;
 - (ii) a concise account of the facts and his/her petition/claim;

- (iii) their representation of the case and the grounds of their petition/claim along with the conclusions;
- (iv) their legal basis/arguments;
- (v) any evidence they may possess (original documents relating to the dispute, including previous correspondences (if any), the standard form player contract as submitted by a club at the time of registration of a player, a copy of which is also required to be provided to the player by the club, the name and address of other natural or legal persons involved in the dispute in different respects, etc. and any other document relevant to the dispute/claim) and their proposals for evidence;
- (vi) the amount in dispute, particularly if it is a financial dispute or concerns property.

10.2 The petition shall be dated and signed and a copy or scanned soft copy of the same is preferably required to be circulated through e-mail to psd@the-aiff.com, or, through registered mail/speed-post or courier, in the manner provided under Article 9 of these rules.

10.3 Upon receiving the petition, the AIFF Players' Status Committee shall, through its secretariat, confirm to the petitioner/claimant that it has received the petition.

10.4 Any petitions that do not satisfy the above-mentioned requirements or are incomplete, not drafted in English or submitted in a vernacular language without an accompanying English translation, unsigned or signed by an unauthorised representative, shall be considered invalid and incomplete and shall be returned to the respective party for redress. A short time limit, as deemed fit, may be provided to a party by the AIFF Players' Status Committee in which to complete the file for the matter, failing which the claim shall be deemed to have been withdrawn and shall not be taken into account. Petitions with improper or inadmissible content will be rejected immediately.

10.5 Once the petition is complete, it shall be forwarded to the other (opposing) party and/or interested parties, with an invitation to indicate their position and/or respond with their respective statement within the time limits allowed by the AIFF Players' Status Committee. In the absence of a response and/or statement of position from the other (opposing) party or interested parties within these time limits, a decision shall be taken upon and passed on the basis of the documents available and already on record.

10.6 As general rule, there will be one exchange of correspondence only and second exchange of correspondence shall be allowed only in exceptional cases. The parties shall present

all the facts and legal arguments together with all the evidence upon which they intend to rely upon in the first exchange itself. If any party would like to lodge a counterclaim, it should do so jointly with its position to the petition/claim and/or within the same time limit applicable to the reply its petition containing all the elements described in Article 10.1 above and submit all necessary documents.

10.7 Submissions received outside the time limits stipulated by the AIFF Players Status Committee shall not be taken into account. The AIFF Players' Status Committee shall have the sole discretion to allow submissions filed beyond the prescribed time limits provided the party who has delayed in filing the respective submissions shows reasonable justification for the delay in question.

10.8 The parties shall not be permitted to supplement or amend their requests or their arguments, to produce new exhibits or to specify further evidence on which they intend to rely, after notification of the closure of the investigation. The AIFF Players Status Committee may at any time request additional statements and/or documents.

Article 11: Oral Hearing

11.1 If the circumstances appear to warrant it, the parties may be summoned to attend an oral hearing. A record of the hearing shall be conducted by a person appointed by the chairman. The testimonies/statements from parties, witnesses and experts are to be signed by them.

11.2 The proceedings shall be held in English. However, on a case to case basis, if it is deemed to be required and feasible as such and permitted by the Chairman of the AIFF Players' Status Committee, part of the proceedings may be conducted in vernacular language(s) provided that due translated records of the vernacular portions of the proceedings shall be maintained in English by the AIFF, if directed to do so by the AIFF Players' Status Committee, with the concerned party which had requested to carry out any part of the proceedings in a vernacular language bearing the costs, if any, for such exercise. In such cases, at the conclusion of the concerned meeting, the salient points mentioned in vernacular by the party(ies) shall be presented in English by the AIFF Players' Status Committee and signed by the party(ies). In the event of any doubt, omission or contradiction whatsoever between any vernacular version and the English version, the latter shall prevail.

Article 12: Taking of evidence

- 12.1 Evidence consists of party testimony, witness testimony, documents, expert reports and all other pertinent evidence.
- 12.2 Evidence shall be heard only in respect of facts relevant to the case.
- 12.3 Any party claiming a right on the basis of an alleged fact shall carry the burden of proof.
- 12.4 During the proceedings, the parties shall submit all relevant facts and evidence of which they are aware at that time, or of which they should have been aware if they had exercised due care.
- 12.5 Any party may, upon perusal of the evidence presented by the other party, file a reasoned application with the AIFF Players' Status Committee requesting the Committee to direct the other party to produce any document and/or material which the other party has referred to in the evidence presented by it provided such documents and/or material are of interest to the dispute. The AIFF Players' Status Committee may also *suo moto* direct any party to produce any document and/or material which has been referred to in the evidence presented by such a party if the AIFF Players' Status Committee is of the opinion that such documents and/or materials are of interest to the dispute.
- 12.6 Any party or third-party subject to the statutes and regulations of AIFF may be compelled by the AIFF Players Status Committee to produce any evidence in its possession that is of interest to the dispute.
- 12.7 The AIFF Players' Status Committee may also consider evidence not presented by the parties.
- 12.8 The AIFF Players' Status Committee may use any documentation or evidence generated by or contained in AIFF CRS.
- 12.9 Evidence shall be considered with free discretion, taking into account the conduct of the parties during the proceedings, especially a failure to comply with a personal summons, a refusal to answer questions and the withholding of requested evidence.

Article 13: Decisions and Form of Decision

- 13.1 Decisions are passed by a simple majority of the members present, who shall each have 1 vote. If any member/s joins the meeting through telephone call or audio/video conferencing or through any other method, such member shall be deemed to have attended the meeting and shall be counted in the quorum of the meeting. Abstentions are not permitted. In the event of a tie, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

- 13.2 In case some members of the Committee are joining the meeting over telephone call or audio/video conferencing, due opportunity will be provided to that member, by the Chairman and such member's vote shall also be counted in passing the decision.
- 13.3 The decisions are signed by the Chairman and the members of the committee and communicated, in writing, by the AIFF Secretariat, to the concerned parties. In case the written decision cannot be signed by any member for any reason, such member may provide his consent by letter or email, which shall be accepted in lieu of his signature on the decision. The decisions can also be communicated through electronic means. The time limit to lodge an appeal begins upon communication of the grounds of the decision to the parties.
- 13.4 The motivated decisions shall contain at least the following:
- (a) Date of decision;
 - (b) Names of the Parties and their Representatives;
 - (c) Names of the members participating in the decision taken by the decision-making body;
 - (d) Claims and/or motions submitted by the parties;
 - (e) Brief description of the case;
 - (f) Reasons for the findings;
 - (g) Outcome of the evaluation of evidence;
 - (h) Findings of the decision.
- 13.5 The AIFF Player Status Committee may decide not to communicate the grounds of a decision and instead communicate only the findings of the decision (without grounds). Following the notification of the findings of the decision, the parties shall be entitled to request the grounds of the decision within ten calendar days as from the notification of the findings of the decision. Failure to do so will result in the decision becoming final and binding and the parties being deemed to have waived their rights to file an appeal.
- 13.6 If a party requests the grounds of a decision, the motivated decision will be communicated to the parties in full, written form. The time limit to lodge an appeal begins from the date of notification of the motivated decision to the parties.
- 13.7 Obvious mistakes in decisions may be corrected, ex officio or on application, by the body that made the decision. No disadvantage may accrue to any party from the erroneous announcement of a decision.

Article 14: Time Limits

- 14.1 Procedural acts must be conducted within the time limit prescribed by the rules or by the decision-making body.
- 14.2 A time limit is deemed to have been observed if the act is completed before midnight on the final day of the set period.
- 14.3 Proof of compliance with the time limit is to be provided by the sender.
- 14.4 If these rules do not specify the consequences of non-compliance with a time limit, they shall be determined by the AIFF Players' Status Committee. Warnings may not go further than necessary for the due process of the proceedings.
- 14.5 The day on which a time limit is set shall not be counted when calculating the time limit.
- 14.6 If the final day of the time limit is an official holiday or a non-working day, the time limit shall expire at the end of the next working day.
- 14.7 Regulatory time limits may not be extended.
- 14.8 The time limit that are set by the AIFF Players Status Committee shall run for no less than five days and no more than 20 days.. In urgent cases, time limits may be reduced.
- 14.9 If a substantiated request is submitted before the time limit expires, an extension of a maximum of ten days may be granted, but only once.
- 14.10 The time limit for lodging an appeal shall always begin as from the notification of the motivated decision.

Article 15: Notification of Decision

- 15.1 Decisions shall be sent to the parties directly, with a copy also sent to the respective State Associations.
- 15.2 Notification is deemed to be complete at the moment the decision is delivered to the party, at least by e-mail or other modes of communication under Article 9. Notification to a representative shall be regarded as notification to the party.
- 15.3 In the absence of direct contact details, decisions intended for the parties to a dispute, in particular clubs, are addressed to the State Association concerned with the instruction to forward the decisions immediately to the pertinent party. These decisions are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four days after communication of the decisions to the State Association. Failure by the State Association to comply with the aforementioned instruction may result in disciplinary proceedings in



accordance with the AIFF Disciplinary Code.

Article 16: Publication

16.1 The AIFF Secretariat may publish decisions issued by the AIFF Players Status Committee. Where such decisions contain confidential information, the AIFF Secretariat may decide, at the request of a party within five days of the notification of the motivated decision, to publish an anonymised or a redacted version.



Chapter III: Final Provisions

Article 17: Adoption and enforcement

- 17.1 These were adopted by All India Football Federation Executive Committee as a part of the AIFF Regulations for Status and Transfer of Players on 6th July 2020.
- 17.2 These Rules shall come into force on 1st August 2020 and shall apply to any proceedings lodged from the said date.