

# **AIFF ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS**

## **(2021 Edition)**



## **OBJECTIVE**

The All India Football Federation (the “AIFF”) prohibits doping and to that extent, the National Anti-Doping Agency (the “NADA”) introduced regular doping controls in the year 2011 which was also adopted by the AIFF to ensure that the results of the Matches in Competitions organised by/ under the aegis by the AIFF are a fair reflection of the strength of the contenders.

Anti-doping programs are founded on the intrinsic value of sport. This intrinsic value is often referred to as "the spirit of sport": the ethical pursuit of human excellence through the dedicated perfection of each Athlete's natural talents.

The fundamental aim of doping control is threefold:

- a) To uphold and preserve the ethics of sport;
- b) To safeguard the physical health and mental integrity of players;
- c) To ensure that all competitors have an equal chance.

The AIFF is bound by the National Anti-Doping Agency Rules (the “NADA Rules”) which were implemented in accordance with National Anti-Doping Agency’s (the “NADA”) responsibilities under the World Anti-Doping Code (the “Code” or the “WADA Code”), the provisions of which are included in these AIFF Anti-Doping Regulations (the “Regulations”) by reference. Further, being the governing body of Football in India and a member of FIFA, the AIFF recognises, accepts and adheres to the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and consequently implemented the applicable provisions of the 2021 version of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations by reference in these Regulations. The NADA Rules and the International Standards shall be considered integral parts of these Regulations and shall prevail in the event of any conflict.

## **RESOURCES:**

- i) AIFF Constitution: <https://www.the-aiff.com/media/uploads/2019/12/AIFF-Constitution.pdf>
- ii) FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, 2021:  
<https://digitalhub.fifa.com/m/ed5f1ae5d0d28f62/original/brfeg8c6j9wpn8qykakh-pdf.pdf>
- iii) WADA Code, 2021: [https://www.nadaindia.org/upload\\_file/document/1609746570.pdf](https://www.nadaindia.org/upload_file/document/1609746570.pdf)
- iv) NADA Rules, 2021: [https://www.nadaindia.org/upload\\_file/document/1619181760.pdf](https://www.nadaindia.org/upload_file/document/1619181760.pdf)

### *General Notes*

*All capitalised words will have the meaning so ascribed to them as per the AIFF Constitution, NADA Anti-Doping Rules, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, and the WADA Anti-Doping Code.*

*These Regulations may be amended from time to time.*

## **DEFINITIONS**

1. “AIFF” means the All India Football Federation.
2. “Club” means a football Club which is a legal entity affiliated to a Member Association or its affiliated unit.
3. “Code” means the latest World Anti-Doping Code.
4. “Competition” means any Football competition / tournament/ match (whether a League or a knock-out competition / tournament, friendly match or otherwise) owned / organized / sanctioned by or requiring the sanction of AIFF and/or sanctioned by / requiring the sanction of or organized by any Member. “Competition” in the official AIFF terminology corresponds to “event” in the World Anti-Doping Code.
5. “FIFA” means the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
6. “FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations” means the latest Anti-Doping Regulations issued by FIFA.
7. “Match” means a single football Match. “Match” in the official AIFF terminology corresponds to “Competition” in the World Anti- Doping Code.
8. “Match Official” means the referee, assistant referees, fourth official, Match Commissioner, referee inspector, the Person in charge of safety, and any other Persons appointed by FIFA and/or AIFF to assume responsibility in connection with a Match.
9. “Member Association” means a State Football Association that is a permanent or provisional member of the AIFF.
10. “NADA” means India’s National Anti-Doping Agency possessing the primary authority and responsibility to adopt and implement anti-doping rules, direct the collection of Samples, manage test results, and conduct Results Management at the national level.
11. “NADA Rules” mean the latest version of National Anti-Doping Agency’s Anti-Doping Rules.
12. “Official” means every board member, committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other Person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in AIFF, Association, League or club as well as all other Persons obliged to comply with the FIFA Statutes (except Players).
13. “Player” means means any football player registered with the AIFF or any of its Member Associations.
14. “Player Support Personnel” means any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, Official, medical or paramedical personnel, parent or any other Person working with, treating or assisting a Player participating in or preparing for sports competition.
15. “WADA” means the World Anti-Doping Agency.
16. “WADA Code” means the World Anti-Doping Agency’s latest version of the World Anti-Doping Code.

## **1. Scope of Application**

- 1.1. In doping-related matters, the NADA Rules, read with FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, shall apply.
- 1.2. These Regulations shall apply to the AIFF, its Member Associations, to Players, Clubs, Player Support Personnel, Match Officials, Officials and other Persons who participate in activities, Matches or Competitions organised by / under the aegis of the AIFF.
- 1.3. Each of the above-mentioned Persons is deemed, as a condition of their participation or involvement in the sport, to have agreed to and be bound by these Regulations, and to have submitted to the authority of the AIFF to enforce these Regulations, including any consequences for the breach thereof.

## **2. National Anti-Doping Agency**

- 2.1. The National Anti-Doping Agency (the “NADA”) was established by the Government of India as a registered society in 2004 under the Society Registration Act XXI 1860 with the objective of acting as the National Anti-Doping Organization for India.
- 2.2. The AIFF has, in its objective of keeping the sport of Football free of any doping, delegated the authority of initiation, implementation and execution of Doping Control and Results Management in Matches or Competitions organised by/ under the aegis of the AIFF and anti-doping education to the NADA.
- 2.3. The NADA shall undertake such initiation, implementation and execution of Doping Control and Results Management in compliance with the NADA Rules (as amended from time to time) which are adopted and implemented in accordance with the NADA’s responsibilities under the WADA Code, and in furtherance of NADA’s continuing efforts to eradicate doping in sports in India.
- 2.4. The NADA Rules are deemed to be incorporated into these Regulations by reference.

## **3. Obligations: The AIFF**

- 3.1. The AIFF shall ensure that:
  - 3.1.1.all its Member Associations acknowledge and agree to be bound by these Regulations and the NADA Rules;
  - 3.1.2.it reports any information suggesting or related to a violation of the NADA Rules to the NADA;
  - 3.1.3.it co-operates with FIFA in implementing anti-doping programs;
  - 3.1.4.the autonomy of the NADA is always respected;
  - 3.1.5.it does not interfere with the operational decisions and activities of the NADA;
  - 3.1.6.it cooperates in doping investigations conducted by the NADA;
  - 3.1.7.all competition regulations submit to the authority of NADA by reference to these Regulations;
  - 3.1.8.take necessary action for the implementation of the decisions of the NADA in case of any Anti-doping rule violation (cf. Article 15);
  - 3.1.9.it promotes anti-doping education, in cooperation with the NADA;
  - 3.1.10. it maintains confidentiality as mandated by the NADA Rules. (cf. Article 14)

#### **4. Obligations: Persons other than the AIFF**

##### *4.1. The Member Associations shall ensure that:*

4.1.1.they comply with these Regulations and NADA Rules, by signing the “Doping Control Declaration of Agreement”;

4.1.2.they incorporate these Regulations either directly or by reference into their Rules;

4.1.3.adhere to, comply with and take necessary action as required per the decisions of the NADA in case of any Anti-doping rule violation. (cf. Article 15);

##### *4.2. The Players, Player Support Personnel, Clubs, other individuals, organisations and entities, subject to these provisions shall ensure that:*

4.2.1.they familiarise themselves with these Regulations, the NADA Rules, the WADA Prohibited List;

4.2.2.they know what constitutes an Anti-doping rule violation;

4.2.3.any medical treatment received by them does not violate these Regulations;

4.2.4.they are aware of what they ingest and use, in the context of anti-doping, and that they are solely responsible for the same;

4.2.5.they comply with the obligations to undergo doping tests as set forth in the NADA Rules;

4.2.6.they disclose to NADA, their Member Association and the AIFF any decision by any organisation that is not a Signatory to the WADA Code, that finds that they committed an anti-doping rule violation within the previous ten years;

4.2.7.they fully cooperate with the NADA in their investigations in relation to any anti-doping rule violation;

4.2.8.they provide their whereabouts information, should they be liable to do so as being identified for inclusion in a national or international Registered Testing Pool;

4.2.9.they maintain confidentiality as mandated by the NADA Rules. (cf. Article 14)

#### **5. Sanctions and Results Management**

5.1. An Anti-Doping rule violation matter shall be resolved in a fair, expeditious and efficient manner by the NADA as per the provisions of the NADA Rules (as amended from time to time). (cf. Article 7)

5.2. Sanctions for each such Anti-Doping rule violation has been provided for in detail in the NADA Rules and the appropriate NADA body shall impose any sanctions in accordance with the said NADA Rules.

5.3. In circumstances where the NADA does not have authority over Persons (other than the AIFF) not being a national, resident, license holder or member of a sports organisation of India, then the Results Management shall be conducted by the Relevant Person or body of the Player’s National Federation.

## **6. Appeals**

- 6.1. Decisions made by the appropriate NADA body may be appealed as per the provisions of the NADA Rules. (cf. Article 13)

## **7. Official Languages and Publications**

- 7.1. These Regulations shall be published in English.
- 7.2. The AIFF may, if deemed necessary, introduce translated versions of these Regulations in vernacular languages. Such translated versions shall be merely for purposes of greater development of the game, and in the event of any doubt, omission or contradiction whatsoever between the vernacular version and the English version of the document, the latter shall prevail.

These regulations were approved and adopted by the Emergency Committee of the All India Football Federation on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and it shall come into force immediately.

These regulations shall be ratified by the Executive Committee of the All India Football Federation in its next meeting in accordance with Article 34.3 of the AIFF Constitution.

For the AIFF Emergency Committee

*President*

*General Secretary*