

HANDBOOK ON UPCOMING ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION
ELECTIONS

Table of Contents

FAQs	1
Order dated 3 rd August, 2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Of India.....	6
Relevant articles of the draft Constitution.....	18
Schedule III to the draft Constitution	21
Relevant Forms.....	28

9th August, 2022

FAQs for upcoming elections

The Committee of Administrators has received several queries over the past few days regarding the upcoming elections. These FAQs are being published to clarify the most common queries raised, in order to ensure compliance with the Supreme Court Order dated 3rd August, 2022. In case of any further clarifications, please send your queries to ro@the-aiff.com and aro@the-aiff.com.

Question: Can the state associations nominate any individual as their representative?

Answer: Under Articles 4.1 and 4.2 of Schedule III to the proposed Constitution, state associations can nominate any individual within the structure of football in that state i.e., a member of the district associations or of the state association itself.

Question: Can the state associations have a different individual for the purpose of voting?

Answer: Only for the purpose of voting, in terms of Article 4.1 and 4.2 of Schedule III to the draft Constitution, the state associations may intimate the name of a different individual to the Returning Officer.

Question: Which office bearer of the state associations must sign and nominate the individual to the electoral college?

Answer: The President or the Secretary as on date may sign the communication regarding nomination of the individual to the electoral college, on the association letterhead.

Question: Is any affidavit / declaration required to be sent along with the nomination?

Answer: Yes, draft affidavits are appended to these FAQs as **Appendix I**. The same must be signed by the relevant individuals as applicable. The same must also be duly notarized.

Question: If the individual nominated by a state association is found to be ineligible by the Returning Officer, will the state association get another opportunity to nominate an individual?

Answer: Yes, in order to ensure maximum representation for all states, in the event that the nominated individual is found to be ineligible / disqualified, the state association will be informed within the day, and they will have a further 2 days to nominate another individual. This will be the final opportunity provided.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Insert name of the President/General Secretary, Son/Daughter of Insert name of Parent aged Insert age in numbers years, resident of Insert address the General Secretary/President of Insert name of Member Association do hereby declare as under:

1. That I am the authorised representative of the Insert name of Member Association and am hereby nominating Insert nominee's name as the representative on behalf of Insert name of Member Association for the purpose of forming the electoral college to the upcoming AIFF elections, in terms of the Order dated 03.08.2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
2. That I have read and understood the contents of Articles 20.7, 26.3 and Clause 1.16 of the Draft Constitution and the said nominee is eligible to vote on our behalf in terms thereof.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

Verified at Insert place of signing on this Insert date in numbers day of August, 2022 that the contents of the above statement are true and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Deponent

AFFIDAVIT

I, Insert name of nominee son / daughter of Insert name of Parent aged Insert age in numbers years, resident of Insert address do hereby solemnly swear as under:

1. That I confirm to be the nominated representative of Insert name of Member Association;
2. That I am not in violation of Article 20.7, 26.3 and Clause 1.16 of the Draft Constitution;
3. That I will only stand for election to the Executive Committee if I am not in violation of the Term Tenure and Age-Limit requirements under Article 26 of the Draft Constitution.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

Verified at Insert place of signing on this Insert date in numbers day of August, 2022 that the contents of the above statement are true and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Deponent

AFFIDAVIT

I, Insert name of Eminent Player, an Eminent Player in terms of the draft Constitution, Son/Daughter of Insert name of Parent aged Insert age in numbers years, resident of Insert address do hereby solemnly swear as under:

1. That I confirm to be part of the electoral college of the upcoming AIFF elections to be held in August 2022 in terms of the Order dated 03.08.2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
2. That I confirm to have played Insert number of matches number of official FIFA matches for the Indian Senior Team;
3. That I have read and understood the contents of Articles 20.7, 26.3 and Clause 1.16 of the Draft Constitution and am eligible to vote in the upcoming AIFF election in terms thereof.
4. That I will only stand for election to the Executive Committee if I am not in violation of the Term Tenure and Age-Limit requirements under Article 26 of the Draft Constitution.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

Verified at Insert place of signing on this Insert date in numbers day of August, 2022 that the contents of the above statement are true and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Deponent

AFFIDAVIT

I, Insert name of Eminent Player an Eminent Player, aged Insert age in numbers years, resident of Insert address do hereby declare as under:

1. That I refuse to be part of the electoral college for the upcoming AIFF elections to be held in August 2022 in terms of the Order dated 03.08.2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
2. That I do not have any objections and/or claims in relation to the formation of the electoral college for the upcoming elections of the AIFF to be held in August 2022.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

Verified at Insert place of signing on this Insert date in numbers day of August, 2022 that the contents of the above statement are true and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Deponent

SLP(C) 30748-49/2017

1

ITEM NO.1

COURT NO.3

SECTION XIV

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (C) Nos.30748-30749/2017

(Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 31-10-2017 in CM No.19815/2012 31-10-2017 in CM No.46919/2016 passed by the High Court of Delhi at New Delhi)

ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

RAHUL MEHRA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(With IA No.132863/2020 - APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING TYPED DOCUMENTS, IA No.136529/2020 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION, IA No.132356/2020 - APPLICATION FOR VACATION OF INTERIM ORDER, IA No. 120057/2020 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No.52821/2022 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No.25119/2020 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, IA No.91992/2021 - EARLY HEARING APPLICATION, IA No.132355/2020 - EARLY HEARING APPLICATION, IA No.118219/2017 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No.131744/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No.98733/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No.98631/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No.120713/2017 - MODIFICATION OF COURT ORDER and IA No.118222/2017 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

Date : 03-08-2022 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE DR. JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.
For CoA Mr. Samar Bansal, Adv.
Mr. Nagarkatti Kartik Uday, AOR
Mr. Siddharth Nath, Adv.
Mr. Madhav Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Jhanvi Dubey, Adv.
Ms. Khushboo Hora, Adv.

Mr. Premtosh Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Debmalya Banerjee, Adv.
Mr. Kartik Bhatnagar, Adv.
Mr. Rohan Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Anmol, Adv.
Mr. Nicholas Choudhury, Adv.
Mr. Shreesh Chadha, Adv.
M/s. Karanjawala & Co.

For Respondent(s) Mr. Rahul Mehra, Caveator-in-person
Mr. Chaitanya Gosain, Adv.
Mr. Amanpreet Singh, Adv.
Mr. Anand Thumbayil, Adv.

Mr. Sanjay Jain, ASG
Mr. Apoorv Kurup, Adv.
Mr. Arkaj Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Padmesh Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Tanya Aggarwal, Adv.
Mr. Nishank Tripathi, Adv.
Ms. Swarupama Chaturvedi, Adv.
Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Amrish Kumar, AOR

Mr. Nar Hari Singh, AOR
Mr. Hemant Phalpor, Adv.

Dr. Amaresh Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Anshuman Amaresh, Adv.
Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR

Mr. K.V. Vishwanathan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ritin Rai, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sanjeev Kapoor, Adv.

Mr. Sahil Naran, Adv.
Mr. Dhritiman Roy, Adv.
Mr. Madhavam Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Ayushman Kacker, Adv.
Ms. Samridhhi Shukla, Adv.
M/s. Khaitan & Co.

Dr. Menaka Guruswamy, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Prateek K Chadha, AOR
Mr. Yash S. Vijay, Adv.
Ms. Ayushi Rajput, Adv.
Mr. Utkarsh Pratap, Adv.

Mr. Prashant Bhushan, Adv.
Mr. Harsh Vardhan Kotla, Adv.
Mr. Kshitij Maneshwari, Adv.
Mr. N. Sai Vinod, AOR

**UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R**

- 1 On 10 November 2017, this Court while constituting a Committee of Administrators¹ observed that its remit would, among other things, be to (i) formulate the Constitution of the All India Football Federation² in consonance with the National Sports Code and the Model Guidelines; and (ii) conduct elections and ensure the constitution of the Executive Committee. Thereafter, by an order dated 18 May 2022, the constitution of the CoA was modified.
- 2 The CoA consists of a former Judge of this Court; a former Chief Election Commissioner who has held the post of Secretary in the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports; and a former captain of the Indian football team. The order of this Court empowered the CoA to provide its inputs to facilitate the adoption of the Constitution of the AIFF under the directions of the Court

1“CoA”

2“AIFF”

after considering suggestions/objections. The CoA was also directed to prepare the electoral college for the purpose of conducting elections to the Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution as proposed subject to further directions of this Court.

- 3 On 21 July 2022, this Court noted that the CoA had received nearly 215 comments from objectors, including the State Associations and FIFA-AFC. The CoA accepted nearly 98% of the objections. The CoA has interacted with a delegation of the FIFA which visited India.
- 4 On 11 October 2022, the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup 2022 is due to commence. India is to host the World Cup. FIFA has indicated to the CoA that the inaugural of the Under-17 tournament should be carried out under the auspices of a democratically elected body of AIFF. From this perspective and bearing in mind the legitimate concerns of FIFA, it is necessary to expedite the elections.
- 5 During the course of the previous hearing on 28 July 2022, there was a general consensus that with this end in view the Court should issue specific directions in regard to the holding of elections. The finalization of the Constitution may take some more time since all the objectors would have to be given an adequate opportunity of being heard. However, a need has been expressed uniformly that the holding of the elections should not be delayed any further.
- 6 There is a consensus that the elections should be conducted in a manner which is in consonance with the National Sports Code and the draft Constitution.
- 7 We have heard Mr Gopal Sankaranarayanan, senior counsel appearing on behalf of the CoA, Mr Sanjay Jain, Additional Solicitor General representing the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mr Rahul Mehra, caveator in-person,

Dr Menaka Guruswamy, senior counsel representing 35 out of 36 State Associations, Mr K V Vishwanathan, senior counsel appearing on behalf of the FSDL and Mr Prashant Bhushan and Dr Amaresh Kumar for the intervenors.

- 8 Dr Menaka Guruswamy, senior counsel has submitted before the Court that the 35 State Associations whom she represents, in turn, represent the interest of 7000 clubs, 700 district Associations and 5,00,000 football players across the country.
- 9 Broadly speaking, the scheme which has been proposed by the CoA for conducting the elections can now be analyzed. For the purpose of the ensuing elections, the electoral college will comprise of (i) representatives of State Federations; and (ii) representatives of eminent players. There are 36 State Federations, each of whom would select one representative to represent the State Federation in the electoral college for AIFF. Each of them would have one vote. Article 26 of the draft Constitution prescribes the term, tenure, age limit and other conditions of eligibility. The CoA has proposed that for the ensuing elections, a list of 36 eminent player representatives will form a part of the electoral college. Initially, it was proposed that a national players' association can be constituted for selecting the representatives of eminent football players, but at this stage, due to the exigencies of time, the representatives of eminent players will be chosen on the basis of their seniority, based on the number of international matches played while representing India. Of the 36 players' representatives, there will be 24 male football players and 12 female players for the first election. The CoA proposes to draw up a consolidated list of eminent players for this purpose within ten days by taking the assistance of existing associations, clubs and stakeholders so as to ensure that the list of eminent players is as comprehensive as possible.

- 10 At this stage, it would be necessary for the Court to deal with the submission urged by Dr Menaka Guruswamy appearing on behalf of the State Associations. The submission is that in terms of the National Sports Code 2011, sports persons are entitled to voting only in the management of national sports federations. In this context, senior counsel relied on clause 9.3(12). It has been submitted that clauses 3.9, 3.10 and 3.20 of the Model Guidelines indicate that State Associations exclusively have the right to vote in the elections to the Executive Committee. Moreover, it has been submitted that the Model Election Guidelines contemplate that it is only the State Associations who would be entitled to vote in the ensuing elections. Hence, it has been urged that allowing eminent players to vote in the elections would not be consistent with the National Sports Code.
- 11 In order to appreciate the submission, we have analyzed the provisions of the National Sports Code. Clause 9.3 envisages that in order to be eligible for assistance from and for continuation of the recognition of government, national sporting organizations must meet several criteria. Included among them is sub-clause xii, which envisages the inclusion of sports persons (say 25%) with voting rights in the management of national sports federations. Sub-clause xiii envisages that elections have to be held in terms of the Model Election Guidelines. Clause 3.9 and 3.10 are extracted below:

“3.9 The membership of the Federation should be confined to the corresponding State/UT and other special units affiliated (like Sports Control Boards etc.) and where Federation grant membership to individual clubs or individual persons, such membership does not confer on such members the right to vote in any of the Federation’s meetings.

3.10 At the National level, there will be only one recognised federation for each discipline of sport. Only the duly recognised National Sports Federation would be entitled to financial grants as admissible. Only one State/UT

Association from each State/UT shall be admitted as a member of the Federation, provided it has a minimum of 50% of the District level Associations affiliated to it. Any organisation of an all India standing and connected with the Sport may be given the status as that of a State or that of a U.T. and admitted as affiliated Member. Other categories of membership may also be given but while each affiliated State/UT Unit shall have a right to cast vote in the General Body Meetings, no other class of Members shall have any right to vote in the Federation's meetings. While granting recognition/affiliation to a State/UT Association, the National Federation should take into consideration the representative character of the State/UT Association so as to ensure that only truly representative body of the game gets the recognition/affiliation."

- 12 Clause 3.9 envisages that membership of the Federation should be confined to the corresponding States or as the case may be, Union Territories and to other affiliated special units. Where a Federation grants membership to clubs or persons, this would not confer a right to vote on them. Similarly, clause 3.10 envisages that apart from the State Associations other categories of membership may also be given, but while each affiliated State/Union Territory unit would have a right to vote in the General Body Meetings, no other class of members would have a right to vote. These provisions would have to however be read together with clause 3.20 which provides as follows:

"3.20 Inclusion of prominent sports persons of outstanding merit as members of the respective sports federations on a tenure basis. The strength of such prominent sports persons with voting rights should be a certain minimum percentage (say 25%) of the total members representing the federation and selection of such sports persons should be in consultation with this Department."

- 13 Clause 3.20 therefore envisages the inclusion of prominent sports persons as members of sports federations on a tenured basis. Their voting rights should

be fixed at a certain minimum percentage, say 25% of the total members representing the Federation. The selection of such sports persons should be in consultation with the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports. In other words, there are two specific provisions which contemplate the inclusion of sports persons. There is on the one hand clause 9.3(12) which specifically contemplates the inclusion of sports persons (say 25%) with voting rights in the management of national sports federations. On the other hand, clause 3.20 also provides for the inclusion of prominent sports persons with a certain minimum percentage of voting rights (say 25%) of the total members representing the Federation. The use of the expression "say 25%" indicates that 25% is only an indicative figure and the extent of the voting rights has to be decided upon deliberation with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

- 14 Appearing for the Ministry, Mr Sanjay Jain, Additional Solicitor General submitted that the Sports Code is an enabling document and not a restrictive document. The Union Ministry has specifically endorsed the need for including 36 eminent players who have represented India in at least one international match.
- 15 The National Sports Code cannot be read in the manner of a statute. A holistic understanding of its provisions has to be arrived at in order to effectuate both its intent and purpose. In this backdrop, consistent with the need for the healthy development of the sport of football in India, the inclusion of eminent players who have represented the country would be of immense benefit. The administration of the affairs of football will benefit from the experience, knowledge and concerns of the players themselves. They are vital stakeholders. Apart from the above analyses, we have also taken note of the fact that the model statutes which are being notified by FIFA do also contemplate due representation to sports players.

SLP(C) 30748-49/2017

9

The CoA has proposed the following time schedule for conducting the elections:

Date	Days from Day 0	Event	Applicable clause of Schedule III
3 rd August, 2022	Day 0	Order of this Hon'ble Court	
12 th August, 2022	Day 10	AIFF to prepare consolidated list of Eminent Players and send to the Returning Officer State Associations to select their representatives and send to the Returning Officer	
13 th August, 2022	Day 11	Returning Officer shall issue the Election Notice specifying the Election Date as determined this Hon'ble Court. The Returning Officer shall scrutinize and prepare the final List of Voters (comprising State Associations' and Eminent Players' representatives as indicated above) forming the Electoral College in Form 1 . The Returning Officer will take up objections raised, if any, and decide on the same within 3 (three) days.	Article 3.4 Article 4.3
17 th August, 2022 to 19 th August,	Day 15 to Day	Nomination Paper proposing and seconding a candidate for	Article 5.4

SLP(C) 30748-49/2017

10

2022	17	election as Office Bearer shall be delivered to the Returning Officer either by post or in person by the candidate himself/herself only in a period between Day 15 and Day 17 between 11.00 AM and 1.00 PM.	
20 th August, 2022	Day 18	As soon as may be after 1:00 P.M. on Day 18, the Returning Officer shall prepare a list of all nominations received by him, post wise, in Form 3; and publish the same in a conspicuous place in his office and also on the website of the AIFF.	Article 5.7
21 st August, 2022	Day 19	At 11:00 A.M., the Returning Officer shall scrutinize each nomination paper, one by one, received by him, and determine its validity or otherwise.	Article 6.1
22 nd August, 2022 to 24 th August, 2022 (until 1:00PM)	Day 20 to Day 22, 1:00 PM.	Each candidate whose nomination has been found valid on scrutiny shall be entitled to withdraw his/her candidature, from Day 20 until 1:00 P.M. on Day 22.	Article 7.1
25 th August, 2022	Day 23	As soon as may be after 11:00 AM on Day 23, the Returning Officer shall prepare the final list of contesting candidates in Form 6, display a copy of the said list in a conspicuous place in his office and on the AIFF	Article 7.5

SLP(C) 30748-49/2017

11

website. Returning Officer shall also furnish a copy of the same to each of the candidates / their authorised representatives, if they so demand.

			Article 8.1
28 th August, 2022	Day 26	Where the number of candidates for any post is equal or lesser to the number of posts they shall be deemed to have been elected unopposed.	

		On Day 26, the Poll for the remaining posts shall be taken post-wise, and shall commence at a suitable time decided and declared in advance by the Returning Officer, in the headquarters of the AIFF at New Delhi.	Article 9.1
--	--	---	-------------

28 th / 29 th August, 2022	Day 26 / 27	The Returning Officer shall count the votes and declare the results.	10.1 (counting) & 11.1 (declaration)
--	-------------	--	---

16 We approve the proposed time-lines.

17 For the above reasons, we order and direct that:

- (i) The elections to the Executive Committee of AIFF should be held expeditiously and shall be concluded in terms of the time schedule which has been indicated in the tabulated statement set out above;
- (ii) The elections shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the provisions of Article 26 of the draft Constitution. The persons chosen as representatives shall have to conform to Article 26.

- (iii) This would be an interim arrangement without prejudice to the rights and contentions of the parties;
 - (iv) The interim Body would continue for a period of three months subject to further orders of this Court till the Constitution is finalized;
 - (v) The interim Body shall not claim any equities on the basis of this order and the present arrangement would be subject to further orders;
 - (vi) The CoA shall be apprised of the decisions of the elected Body; and
 - (vii) Each of the associations representing the State/UTs would nominate one representative to the electoral college. The 36 member electoral college of eminent football players shall consists of 24 male and 12 female players. Each of them would be subject to the requirement of having represented India in at least one international match and should have retired from international football at least 2 years prior to the date of the notification of the elections.
- 18 Since the above order is confined to the process of conducting the ensuing elections, all other issues, including the interlocutory application which is filed by FSDL, will be considered separately.
- 19 List the Special Leave Petitions on 20 September 2022.

(CHETAN KUMAR)
A.R. - cum - P.S.

(SAROJ KUMARI GAUR)
Court Master

RELEVANT ARTICLES OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Clause 1.16 :

“Disqualification Event(s)” shall mean the happening of any of the following events with respect to a person;

- a) Not being or ceasing to be a citizen of India;
- b) Attainment of the age of 70 (seventy) years;
- c) Having charges framed or being convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction in India for an offence punishable by imprisonment for 2 (two) or more years.

Provided that where charges are framed the person shall be disqualified until acquittal and where the person is convicted he shall be disqualified for a further period of 6 years from the date of conviction. If such person prefers an appeal or an application for revision and the Court stays the trial or conviction as the case may be, such person shall not be disqualified during the period such stay is in operation. However, in regard to an appeal by a convicted person, the disqualification will not cease if only a stay of sentence is ordered and not a stay of the conviction itself;

- d) Being banned from participation in any footballing activity by any AIFF Judicial Body, till the date of culmination of the ban;
- e) Being declared of unsound mind;
- f) Being declared insolvent under applicable law;
- g) Holding any office or post in a sports or athletic association or federation apart from Football, except the Indian Olympic Association;
- h) Completion of the maximum term of office of any particular office-bearer as specified in Article 26.3, without serving the specified cooling-off period of 4 (four) years where applicable.

Article 20.7 :

Any person who satisfies any of the criteria which have been deemed to be a Disqualification Event under this Constitution shall not be allowed to represent any association in any AIFF meeting or participate or vote in the same. The President shall conduct the General Body Meeting business in compliance with the Standing Orders of the General Body as provided in Schedule II of this Constitution.

Article 26 :

Term, Tenure and Age-Limits of Office-Bearers

26.1 The procedure for election of the Office Bearers of the Executive Committee shall be as provided in Schedule III to this Constitution.

26.2 The term of the Executive Committee shall be 4 (four) years. Their position shall be honorary.

26.3 All Office-Bearers of the AIFF, shall hold office for a maximum period of 12 (twelve) years in his or her lifetime, however subject to serving a maximum of 2 (two) successive terms of 4 (four) years each. After completing the second successive term referenced above, a person who has held any of these posts shall be eligible to seek election to the same or any other post only after a cooling off period of at least 4 (four) years. During the cooling off period, such an office bearer shall not be a member of the General Body or of any committee whatsoever of the AIFF or of a state association.

26.4 For election of all Office Bearers, it is clarified that any fraction of a term served shall be deemed to be the full term of 4 (four) years.

26.5 All Office-Bearers, shall, without exception, cease to hold these posts on attaining the age of seventy (70) years on which date, the said post shall be

deemed to have been vacated and the said person shall not continue in either an interim or caretaker capacity. An Office-Bearer shall also cease to hold the post in the event of satisfying any of the other criteria which have been deemed to be a Disqualification Event under this Constitution. A suitable replacement for such individual is required to be elected as per specified norms.

26.6 For the purpose of computing maximum tenure of 12 years, the terms served by an individual in a Member Association and the AIFF shall be considered separately, meaning that an individual may serve a total of upto 12 (twelve) years separately and independently as an office bearer in a Member Association and upto 12 (twelve) years separately and independently as an Office Bearer in AIFF.

SCHEDULE III

ELECTION BYE-LAWS OF ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Article 1. Short title & Definitions:

- 1.1 These Bye-laws shall be called the ‘**Election Bye-laws**’ and shall govern the conduct of Election of Office-Bearers of the Executive Committee of the All India Football Federation.
- 1.2 In these Bye-laws, unless the context otherwise requires –
- a) “**Association**” or “**AIFF**” shall mean the All India Football Federation
 - b) “**Constitution**” shall mean the Constitution of the AIFF.
 - c) “**Election Date**” shall mean the date on which Elections are to be held in accordance with the necessary resolution passed by the General Body of the AIFF.
 - d) “**Form**” shall mean the Form(s) appended to these Bye-laws.
 - e) “**Office-Bearers**” refers to the 12 (twelve) individuals who constitute the Executive Committee of the AIFF.
- 1.3 Any expression used in these Bye-Laws which has not been defined above shall have the same meaning as defined in the Constitution of the AIFF.

Article 2: Manner of Election

- 2.1 These Bye Laws shall apply to the election of all Office Bearers of the Executive Committee of the AIFF who are to be elected by the General Body, including the President, Treasurer and 10 (ten) Members (out of whom at least 5 (five) shall be Eminent Players, and out of the Eminent players, at least 2 (two) shall be female Eminent Players) as prescribed in the AIFF Constitution.
- 2.2 Office-bearers of the AIFF shall be elected by secret ballot.
- 2.3 Election shall be held at the General Body Meeting called for the purpose of election, in accordance with the procedures prescribed herein from amongst the Electoral College.
- 2.4 The respective procedures to be followed for the election of the President on the one hand, and other Office Bearers on the other, shall be as follows:
- 2.4.1 Procedure for Election of President: Election shall be conducted on the basis of First Past The Post System. However, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is necessary for the election of the President. If there are more than two candidates for the office of President, whoever obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated after each voting round, and fresh polling will be conducted until any one candidate polls more than 50% of the valid votes cast.
 - 2.4.2 Procedure for Election of Office Bearers other than the President: Election shall be conducted on the basis of First Past The Post System in a single round. Whichever candidate receives the most votes in respect of the seat being contested shall be elected.

- 2.5 The entire electoral process and related proceedings on election day shall be duly recorded and preserved securely in an unedited form on video by the AIFF Secretariat.
- 2.6 The various stages in the conduct of elections shall be in accordance with the stagewise timeline set out in the Clauses below. The timeline for the occurrence of the different stages of the election process is set out in the format Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, etc. in order to indicate sequentially on what day from the commencement of the electoral process a particular stage/event is to occur.

Article 3: Returning Officer:

- 3.1 The Returning Officer shall be appointed by the General Body for conducting elections at least 35 (thirty-five) days prior to the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to be held, and the name of the Returning Officer shall be intimated to the individuals comprising the Electoral College immediately upon such appointment.
- 3.2 The Returning Officer shall be a former State Election Commissioner or a former member of the Election Commission of India not below the rank of Deputy Election Commissioner or former Chief or Joint Chief Electoral Officer of a State.
- 3.3 The Returning Officer may appoint one person to assist him/her in the performance of his/her functions and such person will be called the Assistant Returning Officer. The Assistant Returning Officer, subject to the control of the Returning Officer, be competent to perform all or any of the functions of the Returning Officer.
- 3.4 On Day 1, the Returning Officer shall issue the Election Notice specifying the Election Date. The Election Notice shall be sent to each of the Full Members of the AIFF and shall also be promptly uploaded to the website of the AIFF.
- 3.5 The Returning Officer shall have the power to issue decisions/directions for conduct of the election of Office-Bearers of the AIFF in respect of any matter not covered under the existing Constitution of the AIFF and the present bye-laws, which shall be final and binding. All election procedures including preparation, finalization, circulation of the electoral list. Accepting of nominations, scrutiny, balloting and counting of the results, verification and announcement of the results shall be conducted by the Returning Officer.

Article 4: Electoral College

- 4.1 The electoral College shall ordinarily consist of the representatives of the Full Members in the General Body of the AIFF. However, in case any Full Member wishes to nominate a different individual, other than their representative in the General Body of AIFF, as their delegate for the purpose of voting in the election, they will be permitted to do so by way of intimation in accordance with Cl. 4.2.

Provided that for those Full Members of AIFF where the incumbent governing body has completed its tenure but where elections have not been conducted and concluded before the AIFF elections, such Full Members shall render themselves ineligible to constitute a part of the electoral college for the AIFF elections, or to nominate any candidate(s) for the same.

- 4.2 On Day 8, each Full Member shall intimate the name of their representative / delegate for inclusion in the Electoral College (whether it is their representative in the AIFF General Body or a different individual) to the Returning Officer on their letter head duly signed by its President / Secretary. Any change in the name of the representative / delegate after the last date specified herein or any intimation received thereafter shall be permitted only with the approval of the Returning Officer.
- 4.3 After receipt of names of representatives / delegates referred above, the Returning Officer shall scrutinize and prepare the final List of Voters comprising the Electoral College (“**Electoral College List**”) in **Form 1**, on Day 9. The Returning Officer will take up objections raised, if any, and decide on the same within 5 (five) days.

Article 5: Nomination of Candidates

- 5.1 The nomination of a candidate for election as Office Bearer shall be made in **Form 2**.
- 5.2 The nomination of a candidate for election as Office Bearer shall be proposed by one of the representatives whose name is included in the Electoral College list in **Form 1**, and also subscribed by 1 (one) other representative as seconder.
- 5.3 Each candidate shall be entitled to be nominated by not more than 2 (two) nomination papers.
- 5.4 Each Nomination Paper shall be delivered to the Returning Officer either by post or in person by the candidate himself/herself only in a period between Day 10 and Day 12 between 11.00 AM and 1.00 PM. In case the nomination is sent by post, it shall be the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that the nomination reaches the Returning Officer within the above stipulated period.
- 5.5 No person shall be eligible to nominate more than one candidate for the same post, either as proposer or seconder; and, if he so does, his/her signature on the nomination papers delivered second in point of time to the Returning Officer shall be deemed to be inoperative.
- 5.6 No person shall be permitted to withdraw his/her name as proposer/seconder, once the nomination paper subscribed by him/her has been delivered to the Returning Officer.
- 5.7 As soon as may be after 1:00 P.M. on Day 14, the Returning Officer shall prepare a list of all nominations received by him, post wise, in **Form 3**; and publish the same in a conspicuous place in his office and also on the website of the AIFF.

Article 6: Scrutiny of Nominations

- 6.1 On Day 15, at 11:00 A.M., The Returning Officer in his Office shall scrutinize each nomination paper, one by one, received by him, and determine its validity or otherwise
- 6.2 At the scrutiny of nominations, each candidate or one of his/her authorised representative shall have the right to be present and raise any objection in relation to nomination of a candidate for the post for which he/she has filed his/her nomination.

- 6.3 As soon as may be after the scrutiny of all nomination papers has been completed by him, the Returning Officer shall prepare a list of validly nominated candidates in **Form 4** and publish the same in a conspicuous place in his office and also on the website of the AIFF. The Contesting Candidates can also take a copy from the Returning Officer.

Article 7: Withdrawal of Candidates

- 7.1 Each candidate whose nomination has been found valid on scrutiny shall be entitled to withdraw his/her candidature, from Day 15 until 1:00 P.M. on Day 17.
- 7.2 Notice of withdrawal of candidature shall be submitted in **Form 5**, either by the candidate himself/herself or by a person duly authorised by him/her in writing.
- 7.3 Notice of withdrawal of candidature shall be final and shall not be allowed to be cancelled.
- 7.4 The Returning Officer shall accept the notice of withdrawal if he is satisfied as to the genuineness of the notice.
- 7.5 As soon as may be after 11:00 AM on Day 18, the Returning Officer shall prepare the final list of contesting candidates in **Form 6**, display a copy of the said list in conspicuous place in his office and on the AIFF website. Returning Officer shall also furnish a copy of the same to each of the candidates/their authorised representatives, if they so demand.
- 7.6 The names of the contesting candidates in Form 6 shall be arranged, for each post, in alphabetical order according to English alphabets.

Article 8: Uncontested Returns and Contested Elections

- 8.1 Where the number of contesting candidates for any post or category of post, in **Form 6** is equal to the number of posts to be filled, all such contesting candidates shall be deemed to be duly elected unopposed to those posts, and it shall not be necessary to take a poll for election to such post.
- 8.2 Where the number of contesting candidates for any post or category of post, in **Form 6** is more than the number of posts to be filled, a poll shall be taken by secret ballot for those posts remaining unfilled.
- 8.3 The ballot papers for these posts remaining unfilled shall be in **Form 7** to **Form 9** to be made individually for each post.
- 8.4 The names of contesting candidates on the ballot papers shall appear in the same order as in **Form 6**.

Article 9: Poll

- 9.1 On Day 23, the Poll for the posts remaining unfilled under Clause 8.2 above shall be taken

post-wise, and shall commence at a suitable time decided and declared in advance by the Returning Officer, in the headquarters of the AIFF at New Delhi.

- 9.2 Each contesting candidate can nominate one person (if he/ she so desires) to be present at the Poll (Polling station). All candidates must submitted the name of such person to the Returning Officer within 2 days of publication of final list of contesting candidates in **Form 6** along with valid government ID proof of the same which must be carried by the representative on the polling day.
- 9.3 At the poll, each authorised representative of Full Members , whose name is included in the Electoral College list in Form 1, shall be entitled to:
- (i) cast one vote for each of the posts remaining unfilled, where only one such seat is to be filled;
 - (ii) cast as many votes as are the no. of seats to be filled for any post, where more than one seat is to be filled.

Explanation: 71 or the purpose of filling ten seats of Office Bearers other than President and Treasurer, each voter can cast up to ten votes Voters can cast only one vote each for post of President and Treasurer.

- 9.4 In case any voter casts his/her vote for more than one candidate for posts of President or Treasurer, or for more than ten candidates for the other office bearers , his/her vote for that post shall be invalid.
- 9.5 Each voter shall be required, before he is supplied with a Ballot paper, to give his/her signature on the authenticated copy of the Electoral College list in **Form 1** used by the Returning Officer for taking the poll.
- 9.6 The voter shall record his/her vote on the ballot paper in secrecy in a voting compartment specially provided for the purpose at the polling station.
- 9.7 The voter shall record his/her vote on the ballot paper by placing a tick mark (√) against the name of the candidate of his/her choice, and any other mark, like (x) etc. or word, placed on the ballot paper by him/her shall render the ballot paper liable to rejection.
- 9.8 The tick mark to indicate the vote shall be placed by the voter only by means of article specifically provided for the purpose by the Returning Officer, and a ballot paper marked otherwise by means of any pen, ball point pen, etc. by the voter shall render the ballot paper liable to rejection.
- 9.9 The ballot paper marked by a voter shall be deposited by him/her in a ballot box specially prepared and sealed by the Returning Officer and placed at such a conspicuous place in the polling station that it shall be constantly visible to all present in the polling station.
- 9.10 The Returning Officer shall dose the poll at the appointed hour; however, all those voters who are present at the polling station at the appointed closing hour shall be entitled to vote even if the poll proceedings have to be continued for some more time.

- 9.11 After all the voters referred to in Cl. 9.10 have voted, the Returning Officer shall close and seal the ballot box and shall not permit thereafter any person to vote.
- 9.12 Polling shall be done in the following order:
- (i) President;
 - (ii) Treasurer;
 - (iii) 10 other Office Bearers

Article 10: Counting of Votes

- 10.1 The Returning Officer shall take up the counting of votes as soon as possible after the polling for any post is complete.
- 10.2 Each contesting candidate can nominate one authorised representative (as clarified in Cl. 9.2) and he/she shall be entitled to be present at the place of counting of votes.
- 10.3 The Returning Officer shall take up the counting of votes, post-wise and category wise, where applicable.
- 10.4 Each ballot paper on which a vote has been recorded in accordance with Sub-Clauses (3) to (8) of Clause 9 shall be treated as one vote for the- candidate for whom it has been validly marked; and if any ballot paper has been marked in violation of any of the aforesaid provisions of Sub-Clauses (3) to (8) of Clause 9 shall be rejected by the Returning Officer.
- 10.5 The votes validly cast for each of the contesting candidates shall be counted post-wise, and category-wise where applicable, and recorded by the Returning Officer in the descending order of the votes so cast for each candidate in **Form 10**. A separate List in **Form 11** shall be prepared by the Returning Officer only of the Eminent Players contesting for the 10 posts of Office Bearer other than President and Treasurer in the descending order of the votes cast for them and shall also indicate their gender in the said Form.
- 10.6 The Returning Officer shall thereafter ascertain the result of counting and the successful candidate(s) shall be determined as follows:
- 10.6.1 For the Post of President:

If any of the candidates is able to secure a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast for the post of President, he or she shall be deemed to have been duly elected as President. However, if none of the candidates is able to secure a simple majority of the valid votes cast i.e. more than 50%, then the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be removed from the Candidate List, and a fresh Ballot Paper only for the post of President (in the format of Form 7) shall be prepared by the Returning Officer without his/her name. A fresh round of voting on the freshly prepared Ballot Paper for President shall be conducted immediately thereafter and on the same day for the post of President in accordance with Clause 9 and votes shall be counted and result ascertained by the Returning Officer in accordance with Clause 10. This process shall be repeated with the exclusion of the candidates obtaining lowest number of votes in each round, until any one candidate is able to secure more than 50% of the valid votes cast in the election for President, at which time such a successful candidate shall

be deemed to have been duly elected to the post of President.

10.6.2 For the post of Treasurer:

The candidate who has secured the maximum number of valid votes cast for the post of Treasurer shall be deemed to have been duly elected as Treasurer.

10.6.3: For the other 10 Posts of Office Bearers:

In the first instance, the five candidates who have secured the maximum number of valid votes cast for these Posts as recorded in Form 11 (i.e the five Eminent Player candidates having secured the maximum votes out of all Eminent Players contesting) shall be deemed to have been elected to these 5 posts. Provided that there must be at least 2 successful women candidates in these 5 posts for Eminent Players, accordingly if there is any deficit in the same (i.e 0 or 1 successful female candidate), then the corresponding number of women candidates having next highest number of valid votes cast shall be deemed to have been elected in place of the successful male candidates having the least number of votes in the top 5 candidates.

Thereafter, the five candidates having secured the maximum number of valid votes cast for these Posts as recorded in Form 10 (i.e. out of all candidates whether Eminent Player or not), after excluding the five Eminent Player candidates elected as above, shall be deemed to have been elected to the remaining 5 posts.

- 10.7 The Returning Officer shall put the ballot papers that have been collected and counted into envelopes intended for this purpose and seal them immediately. The Returning Officer shall keep these envelopes for a minimum of 100 (one hundred) days after the date of polling and counting.

Article 11: Declaration of Results

- 11.1 The contesting candidates who have been elected shall be declared as having been duly elected to their respective posts by the Returning Officer in **Form 12**.

FORM 2
**NOMINATION PAPER FOR ELECTION TO THE POST OF [INSERT PRESIDENT /
 TREASURER / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AS APPLICABLE]**

To
 (Name and address of returning officer)
 The Returning Officer for above Election

We nominate Shri/Smt./Ms. _____,

 (name & address), for the above mentioned post.

[Following paragraph only to be included in nomination paper for "Executive Committee member"]

The above Candidate **is / is not** (strike out as applicable) an Eminent Player.

2. Our particulars are given below.-

	Name and Address of Proposer/Secunder	S. No. in Electoral College List of proposer / seconder	Signature of Proposer / Secunder
Proposer			
Secunder			

I, the candidate above named, do hereby give my assent to my nomination for the above post. .

Name of the Candidate _____

Signature _____

Place:

Date:

FORM 3
LIST OF NOMINATED CANDIDATES

Name of Post	Name and address of Candidate	In case of nominations to Member of Executive Committee, whether Candidate is an Eminent Player or not and gender of candidate	Name & S. No. in Electoral College list of proposer	Name & SI. No. in Electoral College list of seconder

Place:

Returning Officer

Date:

FORM 4
LIST OF VALIDLY NOMINATED CANDIDATES

Name of Post	Name and address of Candidate	In case of nominations to Member of Executive Committee, whether Candidate is an Eminent Player or not and gender of candidate	Name & S. No. in Electoral College list of proposer	Name & SI. No. in Electoral College list of seconder

Place:

Returning Officer

Date:

FORM 5
ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATURE FOR
ELECTION AS _____(NAME OF THE POST)

To,
The Returning Officer for above Election

I, the validly nominated candidate, do hereby give my notice of withdrawal of candidature for the above post.

Name of the Candidate: _____
SI. No. in the List of validly nominated candidates: _____
Signature: _____

Place :

Date :

FORM 6
LIST OF CONTESTING CANDIDATES

Name of Post	Name of Candidate	In case of nominations to Member of Executive Committee, whether Candidate is an Eminent Player or not and gender of candidate

Place:

Returning Officer

Date:

**FORM 7
BALLOT PAPER**

Name of Post	Name of Candidate		In case of nominations to Member of Executive Committee, whether Candidate is an Eminent Player or not and gender of candidate
President (1)	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		

N.B.

- (1) Place tick mark (√) against the name of only One candidate for the post of President,
- (2) DO NOT place any other mark like (x), or word, etc. against the name of any candidate as that shall render your ballot paper liable to rejection.
- (3) Place tick mark (√) on the ballot paper only with the article specially provided for the purpose. Any ballot paper marked with any other pen, ball point pen, etc. shall render your ballot paper liable to rejection.

(Returning Officer)

**FORM 8
BALLOT PAPER**

Name of Post	Name of Candidate		In case of nominations to Member of Executive Committee, whether Candidate is an Eminent Player or not and gender of candidate
Treasurer (1)	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		

N.B.

- (1) Place tick mark (√) against the name of only One candidate for the post of Treasurer,
- (2) DO NOT place any other mark like (x), or word, etc. against the name of any candidate as that shall render your ballot paper liable to rejection.
- (3) Place tick mark (√) on the ballot paper only with the article specially provided for the purpose. Any ballot paper marked with any other pen, ball point pen, etc. shall render your ballot paper liable to rejection.

(Returning Officer)

**FORM 9
BALLOT PAPER**

Name of Post	Name of Candidates			Mark vote here by placing tick (V) mark.
Executive Committee Member (10 posts)	S. No.	Name	Whether Eminent Player or Not and which Gender	

N.B.

- (1) For the purpose of filling 10 seats of Members, each voter can cast up to ten votes by placing tick marks (√) for the above mentioned ten seats.
- (2) DO NOT place any other mark like (x), or word, etc. against the name of any candidate as that shall render your ballot paper liable to rejection.
- (3) Place tick mark (V) on the ballot paper only with the article specially provided for the purpose. Any ballot paper marked with any other pen, ball point pen, etc. shall render your ballot paper liable to rejection.

(Returning Officer)

FORM 10
RESULT OF COUNTING OF VOTES

Name of Post	Total Votes Polled	Total Votes Rejected	Name of Candidate			Valid Votes Polled
President (1)			1.			
			2.			
			3.			
			4.			
			5.			
Name of Post			Name of Candidate			
Treasurer (1)			1.			
			2.			
			3.			
			4.			
			5.			
Name of Post			Name of Candidates			
Executive Committee Member (10 posts)			S. No.	Name	Whether Eminent Player or Not and which Gender	

Place:

Returning Officer

Date:

FORM 11
RESULT OF COUNTING OF VOTES
(ONLY EMINENT PLAYERS IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CATEGORY)

Name of Post	Total Votes Polled	Total Rejected Votes	Names of Candidates			Valid Votes Polled
			S. No.	Name	Gender	
Members (10)			1.			
			2.			
			3.			
			4.			
			5.			
			6.			
			7.			
			8.			
			9.			
			10.			
				Total		

(Returning Officer)

FORM 12
DECLARATION OF RESULTS

I, the Returning Officer for the above elections, hereby declare, in accordance with Article 11.1, Schedule III, the Constitution of All India Football Federation, the following candidates as duly elected to the post(s) mentioned against their names:

Name of the Post	Name(s) of the Elected Candidate(s)
President (1)	
Treasurer (1)	
Members (10)	

Place:

Date:

(Returning Officer)