

CONSTITUTION OF THE ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

PREAMBLE

This Constitution aims to establish a framework of good governance and practices in football in India and is envisaged to be implemented as a binding code of mandatory minimum requirements for administration and governance of football in India, which will be compliant in all respects and ensure transparency, accountability and observance of democratic values in the conduct of the business of the Federation.

CHAPTER I: DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Definitions

The capitalized terms provided below shall have the specific meanings ascribed thereto, unless the context explicitly requires otherwise. For the purposes of this Constitution and provided the context so permits, the singular shall include the plural and vice versa and reference to any gender shall include all genders and further, reference to a 'person' shall include an individual, legal person, corporation and/or any other entity:

- 1.1 **"AIFF" or "Federation"** shall mean the All India Football Federation, being a national sports federation duly authorized and recognized to promote, develop, administer and govern the sport of Football in India, duly affiliated to and recognised as such by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, FIFA and the AFC.
- 1.2 **"AIFF Constitution"** shall mean the Constitution of the AIFF, and shall include the Schedules to the Constitution including the Regulations Governing the Application of Statutes and the Standing Orders of the General Body of AIFF as promulgated by the General Body and provided at the end of this Constitution.
- 1.3 **"AIFF Election Rules"** shall be the norms governing the elections conducted under this Constitution which are in Schedule III read with Article 74.
- 1.4 **"AIFF General Secretariat"** is the administrative body of the AIFF, currently situated at Football House, Sector 19, Phase-1 Dwarka, New Delhi -110075, India.
- 1.5 **"AIFF Systems"** shall include the AIFF Centralised Registration System (CRS), the AIFF Competition Management System (CMS), the AIFF Coaching Registration Portal (CRP), Referees Administration System of India (RASI), the Golden Baby Leagues Mobile Application (GBL App) and any other systems developed by the AIFF.
- 1.6 **"AFC"** shall mean the Asian Football Confederation.
- 1.7 **"AGM"** shall mean the Annual General Body Meeting of AIFF.
- 1.8 **"Affiliate/Affiliated Unit/Constituent Unit"** shall mean any District Association, Club or any other unit, division, association, organisation or institution recognized by and/or affiliated to a Member of AIFF.
- 1.9 **"Associate Member"** shall mean a government or public sector undertaking or entity involved in promotion and development of Football, duly affiliated to and recognised as such by the AIFF, with

duties and rights as specified in Article 13.

- 1.10 **"Association Football"** shall mean the game regulated worldwide by FIFA and organized in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the rules.
- 1.11 **"Candidate"** is any person standing for elections to the AIFF Executive Committee who has been proposed and seconded in the manner laid down in Art. 5.2 Of Schedule III to this Constitution.. The candidate shall be a citizen of India.
- 1.12 **"Conflict of Interest"** shall mean situations where an individual associated with the AIFF in any capacity acts or omits to act in a manner that brings, or is perceived to bring the interest of the individual in conflict with the interest of the game of Football and that may give rise to apprehensions of, or actual favouritism, lack of objectivity, bias, benefits (monetary or otherwise) or linkages, as set out in Article 73 of this Constitution.
- 1.13 **"Club"** shall mean a legal entity engaged in playing Football, providing training/coaching services/facilities for Football, and which is also a legal entity affiliated to a Member or its Affiliated Unit.
- 1.14 **"Club Licensing"** shall mean the process by which a Club is given licenses by AIFF to play in AFC and AIFF Competitions.
- 1.15 **"Competition"** shall mean any Football competition / tournament/ match (whether a League or a knockout 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.
- 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.
- 1.17 **"District Association"** shall mean a football association of a district in India, which is registered as a not-for-profit company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 or under the Companies Act, 1956, or a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, having the sole objective of promotion and development of Football and being duly affiliated to the concerned Member.
- 1.18 **"Eminent Player"** shall mean a past Football player, male or female who has been retired for at least 2 (two) years, and has represented India at the senior level in at least 1 (one) competitive match sanctioned by FIFA/AFC. The date of retirement is to be reckoned from the date of the last game played.
- 1.19 **"Executive Committee"** shall mean the principle governing body of AIFF as constituted in accordance with Article 25 of this Constitution.
- 1.20 **"FIFA"** shall mean the *Federation Internationale de Football Association*.
- 1.21 **"Financial Year"** shall mean a period of twelve months starting from 1st April of a year and ending on 31st March of the following year.
- 1.22 **"Football"** shall mean as the context requires, any or all types and forms of football including without limitation to Association Football, futsal and beach soccer.
- 1.23 **"Full Member"** shall mean a football association of a State or Union Territory as specified in the Constitution of India, which has been granted fulltime affiliation specified in Article 13.
- 1.24 **"General Body"** shall mean the supreme legislative body of AIFF comprising the Members of the AIFF as constituted as per Article 13 of this Constitution.
- 1.25 **"General Secretary"** shall mean the chief salaried executive administrator of AIFF, as detailed in Article 55 of this Constitution.
- 1.26 **"Government"** shall mean the Government of India including any concerned ministry from time to time as may be applicable or relevant.
- 1.27 **"Government Servant"** shall mean a person employed by a local, state or central government, a government body, a public sector undertaking, or any autonomous body promoted by any such aforesaid government or any of its undertakings.
- 1.28 **"IFAB"** shall mean the International Football Association Board.
- 1.29 **"IOA"** shall mean the Indian Olympic Association.
- 1.30 **"Immediate Family"** or **"Immediate Family Member"** shall mean, with respect to any person,

such person's spouse or domestic partner, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, children (including any stepchild or adopted child), grandchildren, son, daughter, father or mother-in-law and the spouses of such persons. These terms shall also include anyone else, whether by blood or otherwise, with whom the individual has a relationship akin to a family relationship for which such person provides financial support.

- 1.31 **"Intermediaries"** shall mean a natural or legal person who, for a fee or free of charge, represents Players and/or Clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding a transfer and/or an employment contract.
- 1.32 **"Judicial Body/Bodies"** shall mean any or all of the bodies established or set up by the AIFF, as detailed in Article 45 of this Constitution.
- 1.33 **"Laws of the Game"** refer to the provisions of the 'Laws of the Game' as issued by the IFAB and published by FIFA in accordance with the FIFA statutes.
- 1.34 **"League"** shall mean a professional league / tournament and / or amateur league / tournament which consists of a combination of Clubs within the territory of the AIFF and which is under the authority and sanction of the AIFF or those under the aegis of the AIFF.
- 1.35 **"Licensed Match Agent"** shall mean a match agent duly accredited and licensed for such purpose by FIFA and holding a valid license.
- 1.36 **"Match Officials"** shall mean the Match Commissioners, Referee Assessors, referee educators, Referees and assistant Referees, fourth officials, the person in charge of safety, and any other persons appointed by AIFF or the Member to assume responsibility in connection with a match.
- 1.37 **"Material Business Relationship"** shall mean, with respect to any person, where such person has been, or is, a current director or executive officer or employee or contractually engaged person of, or owns, directly or indirectly, 10% (ten percent) or more of the equity of any entity that has made payments to, or received payments from, AIFF, any Member or its Affiliated Unit or made payments to, or received payments from any sponsor, auditor, external counsel or other paid adviser or contractor of any of AIFF, any Member or any of its Affiliated Units for property or services for any amount in the past 10 (ten) years. Any compensation or other amounts paid to any such person in their capacity as a member of the Executive Committee or of an AIFF committee or body shall not constitute a Material business relationship within the meaning of this provision.
- 1.38 **"Member"** of the AIFF shall mean a Full Member, Associate Member and Provisional Member of the AIFF.
- 1.39 **"Member Association"** of the AIFF shall mean a Full Member and Provisional Member of the AIFF.
- 1.40 **"Officials"** shall mean any member of the Executive Committee, the Standing Committees, the Judicial Bodies of AIFF, the General Secretary and managerial and support staff of the General Secretariat, managers, coaches, trainers, Match Officials, medical officials and any other person(s) responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters with regards to AIFF, Members, Affiliated Units, Competitions or Clubs as well as any other person(s) obliged to comply with the AIFF Constitution (except Players and Intermediaries).
- 1.41 **"Office-Bearer(s)"** shall mean all elected members of the Executive Committee as indicated in

Article 25 of this Constitution.

- 1.42 **“Organizer”** shall mean AIFF or any Association and/or organization who has been permitted by the AIFF or its Member Affiliates to organize and operate any football competition / league in India under AIFF sanction, as the case may be.
- 1.43 **“Player”** shall mean a Football player, past or present, registered in accordance with the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players or any other relevant Regulations in this regard as may be prescribed from time to time and shall include any person who has been or is selected in any squad to represent India at the senior level in India or abroad.
- 1.44 **“Provisional Member”** shall mean a football association of a State or Union Territory admitted by AIFF as a provisional member, with duties and rights as specified in this Constitution.
- 1.45 **“Public Servant”** shall mean a person defined as such under Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.
- 1.46 **“Referee”** shall mean a person who has the full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with any Football match he or she has been appointed to officiate in.
- 1.47 **“Regulations”** shall mean rules, regulations, codes, instructions and directives as promulgated by the AIFF, and will include clarifications thereto and circulars in this regard, as may be issued from time to time by the AIFF.
- 1.48 **“Returning Officer”** shall have the eligibility, functions, qualifications and role assigned under Schedule III.
- 1.49 **“Scratch Team”** shall mean a team consisting of Players not registered to the same Affiliated Unit or Member and/or composed of players who are no longer duly registered as they have finished their Football career as a professional and/or amateur player.
- 1.50 **“Season”** shall mean the AIFF Football Season as per the provisions of the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 1.51 **“Seniormost top division league”** shall mean the league competition owned, operated, recognized and directly managed by the AIFF, that implements the principles of promotion and relegation, and meets all requirements prescribed by the AFC for being eligible to obtain a direct slot in the Asian Champions League. Provided that the above functions/roles cannot be delegated or assigned to any other entity or organization
- 1.52 **“SGM”** shall mean the Special General Body Meeting of AIFF.
- 1.53 **“Sports Code”** shall mean the National Sports Development Code, 2011 or any revision, updation or amendment thereof, by whatsoever name, as may be introduced by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India from time to time.
- 1.54 **“Standing Committees(s)”** shall mean the Committees as detailed in Article 31 of this Constitution.
- 1.55 **“State(s)”** shall mean and include each state of the Union of India and each of its Union Territories.

- 1.56 **"Union of India"** or **"India"** shall mean the sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic of India.

Article 2: Name, Headquarters and Affiliation

- 2.1 The All India Football Federation (AIFF) is registered with the Registrar of Societies, Mumbai, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- 2.2 The headquarters of AIFF are located at AIFF Football House, Sector 19, Phase 1, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075.
- 2.3 The AIFF is a member of FIFA, AFC and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and is recognized as the sole National Sports Federation of India for Football by FIFA, AFC, IOA and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. Accordingly, it is self-obliged to maintain this recognition and good standing and respect the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA and AFC as well as the provisions of the Sports Code and all applicable laws, and to ensure that these are likewise implemented and respected by its Members.

Article 3: Human Rights

- 3.1 AIFF is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.

Article 4: Objectives of AIFF

- 4.1. To be responsible and accountable for the overall management, direction, control, regulation, promotion, development and sponsorship of the sport of football in India independent of any influence from any third parties.
- 4.2. To control, improve and popularize the quality and standards of Football constantly and promote it throughout India in the light of its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes in urban, rural and remote areas including schools, colleges and universities and to foster the spirit of sportsmanship amongst school, college and university students and others and to educate them regarding the same.
- 4.3. To strive for professionalism in Football and in its governance and administration; inculcate principles of transparency and ethical standards in Players, Officials, Referees and administrators; and to ban doping, age fraud, sexual harassment and all other forms of inequity and discrimination.
- 4.4. To lay down policies, roadmaps, regulations and guidelines relating to the game of Football in India and to ensure their enforcement, recognising that the primary stakeholders are the Players and Football fans in India and that accountability, transparency, purity and integrity of the game are core values.
- 4.5. To provide for measures necessary for the welfare and development of Players and elimination of unethical and unfair practices in Football and for that purpose organise coaching schemes,

establish coaching academies if required and possible, hold tournaments and conduct exhibition matches and take required steps in this regard.

- 4.6. To encourage the formation of State, District or other Football associations and the organization of domestic inter-state and other Competitions including international tournaments; to lay down norms for recognition which achieve uniformity in the structure, functioning and processes of the Member Associations and their Affiliated Units, provided that the same is done in a clear and transparent manner with relevant and accurate documentation, made available for access on the public domain.
- 4.7. To arrange, control, regulate and if necessary, finance visits of teams that are members of FIFA and/or AFC to play in India.
- 4.8. To arrange, control, regulate and finance, visits of Indian Football teams, for both men's and women's football across senior and youth levels, to tour countries that are members of FIFA and/or AFC or elsewhere in conjunction with the bodies governing Football in the countries to be visited.
- 4.9. To control all types of organised Football, by taking appropriate steps to ensure compliance with and prevent infringements of the statutes, codes, rules, regulations, standing orders, directives and decisions of FIFA, AFC & AIFF and the Laws of the Game as well as the Sports Code and all applicable laws.
- 4.10. To undertake and encourage efforts to ensure that the game of Football is available to and accessible for all in India who wish to participate, regardless of gender or age.
- 4.11. To promote the development of women's Football in India and the full participation of women at all levels of Football governance.
- 4.12. To promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing, without limitation, all unfair or illegal methods or practices including corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardise the integrity of matches, Competitions, Players, Officials and Members or give rise to abuse of Association Football.
- 4.13. To institute strong measures and campaigns against bribery, corruption, drugs, match fixing, racism and any other issue which may require adoption of such measures in Football.
- 4.14. To initiate, manage, nurture and further enhance domestic and international sporting relations connected for better development of Football.
- 4.15. To protect the interest of its Members.
- 4.16. To raise funds, purchase and/or hold any property and/or any other asset or any interest and create/own fully or partly separate corporate entities as may be required from time to time for better development of Football in India, provided that the overall authority and responsibility for organization and management of Football in India, including the discretion and authority pertaining to decision-making powers remain with the AIFF.
- 4.17. To undertake and encourage efforts for the creation and/or upgradation of infrastructure and support for growth and development of Football in India.

- 4.18. To recognise and honour positive contributions made towards the growth and development of Football in India.
- 4.19. To do all such acts as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of foregoing objects and for promotion and development of the game of Football.
- 4.20. To provide the necessary institutional means to resolve and settle disputes between and amongst Players, Officials, Clubs, Members, AIFF and other stakeholders and organizations.
- 4.21. To constitute committees, from time to time, and entrust or delegate its functions and duties to such Committees, for achieving the objects of the AIFF.
- 4.22. To sell, manage, mortgage, lease, exchange, dispose of or otherwise deal with all or any property of the AIFF.
- 4.23. To acquire or purchase properties – movable and immovable, and assets – tangible and intangible, and to apply the capital and income therefrom and the proceeds of the sale or transfer thereof, for or towards all or any of the objects of the AIFF.
- 4.24. To collect funds, and wherever necessary, borrow with or without security for the AIFF and to raise loans with or without security for AIFF and to purchase, redeem or pay off any such securities.
- 4.25. To carry out any other activity which may seem to the AIFF capable of being conveniently carried on in connection with the above, or calculated directly or indirectly to enhance the value or render profitable or generate better income/revenue, from any of the properties, assets and rights of the AIFF, while ensuring that the AIFF retains the overall authority and responsibility for organization and management of Football in India, including the discretion and authority pertaining to all decision-making powers.
- 4.26. To promote, protect and assist the Players who are the primary agents of the game.
- 4.27. To start and/or sponsor and/or subscribe to funds or stage matches for the benefit of the Players or persons who may have rendered service to the game of Football or for their families, or to donate towards the development or promotion of the game and to organize matches in aid of Public Charitable and Relief Funds.
- 4.28. To impart physical education through Football.
- 4.29. To co-ordinate the activities of members and institutions in relation to the AIFF.
- 4.30. To create and/or maintain a central database in synchronisation with global best practices of registered Players along with their game statistics.
- 4.31. To introduce a scheme of professionalism and to implement the same in Football.
- 4.32. To ensure that the income, funds and properties of the AIFF, however acquired, shall be utilized and applied solely for the promotion of the objects of the AIFF.
- 4.33. Generally, to do all such other acts and things as may seem to the AIFF to be expedient, convenient and/or conducive to the carrying out of the objects of the AIFF.

Article 5: AIFF Bodies

- 5.1 The General Body is the supreme legislative body, Executive Committee is the executive body, General Secretariat is the administrative body and the Judicial Bodies are the adjudicatory bodies of the AIFF.
- 5.2 There shall be Standing Committees and departments as defined in Article 31 to advise and assist the General Body and Executive Committee in fulfilling their duties. Their primary duties are defined in this Constitution and their composition, function and additional duties may be further specified as required from time to time by the General Body in accordance with this Constitution.

Article 6: Non-discrimination and Stance Against Racism

- 6.1 AIFF is an autonomous body without any political affiliation and is neutral in matters of politics, religion, caste or community.
- 6.2 Discrimination of any kind against a country, State or Union Territory, Club, legal or natural person or group of people on account of race, caste, skin colour, ethnicity, national, regional or social origin, gender, language, religion, political views/opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason, is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion as well as any additional penalty that may be deemed to be appropriate by the AIFF Judicial Bodies.

Article 7: Promoting Friendly Relations

- 7.1 AIFF shall promote friendly relations between Members, Clubs, Officials, Players and other stakeholders.
- 7.2 Every person and organization involved in the game of Football is obliged to observe the statutes, Regulations and the principles of fair play.

Article 8: Players

- 8.1 The status of Players and the provisions for their transfer are regulated by AIFF in accordance with the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and, where applicable, the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, as may be updated from time to time.
- 8.2 Each Player must be registered with AIFF in accordance with the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 8.3 Members, their Affiliated Units, Players and all other concerned parties must comply with the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players as may be updated from time to time.

Article 9: Laws of the Game

- 9.1 The AIFF, its Member Associations and their Affiliated Units shall organise and/ or play:
- a) Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB. Only the IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game;
 - b) Futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game as issued or approved by FIFA;
 - c) Beach Soccer in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued or approved by FIFA;
 - d) Any other type of Football in accordance with the relevant laws for that type of Football recognized by FIFA.

Article 10: Code of Conduct

- 10.1 Committee members of AIFF Judicial Bodies, Standing Committees and Officials of AIFF and its Members and their Affiliated Units, Intermediaries, Licensed Match Agents and Players must observe the AIFF Constitution, Regulations, decisions, Disciplinary Code and Code of Ethics of the AIFF, AFC and FIFA in their activities, as well as the provisions of the Sports Code and all applicable laws.
- 10.2 All of the abovementioned parties shall ensure that any contract or agreement they enter into with any third party shall ensure compliance with the AIFF Constitution, Regulations, decisions and Code of Ethics of the AIFF, AFC and FIFA in their activities, as well as the provisions of the Sports Code and all applicable laws.

Article 11: Official Language

- 11.1 English is the official language of AIFF.
- 11.2 AIFF may, if deemed necessary, introduce translated versions of AIFF codes, rules, Regulations etc in vernacular languages. Such translated versions shall be merely to enable greater and faster 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.

CHAPTER II: ZONES**Article 12: Zones**

- 12.1 AIFF has constituted the following Zones:
- a) **North Zone:** Comprising of the Member Associations representing the States/Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Delhi.
 - b) **North East Zone:** Comprising the Member Associations representing the States of Tripura, Mizoram, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - c) **East Zone:** Comprising the Member Associations representing the States of Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.
 - d) **West Zone:** Comprising the Member Associations representing the States/Union Territories

of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Goa and Lakshadweep.

- e) **South Zone:** Comprising the Member Associations representing the States/Union Territories of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Telangana.

- 12.2 For the avoidance of any doubts, as on date of the approval/ratification of this Constitution, the Union Territory of Ladakh is a Provisional Member of the AIFF with no voting rights. Further, the erstwhile members, namely (i) Daman and Diu and (ii) Dadra and Nagar Haveli, shall be merged and registered as Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu as per Government Notification.
- 12.3 In relation to participation in Competitions, the Executive Committee may allot Zones to some or all Associate Members, as it deems fit. The Executive Committee may re-allot/cancel their Zones, as it may deem fit.

CHAPTER III: GENERAL BODY

Article 13: Types of Memberships and Rights

- 13.1 The General Body shall be comprised of Full Members, Provisional Members and Associate Members as defined in this Constitution.
- 13.2 Full Members shall have the following rights:
- a) To be a part of the General Body and participate fully in meetings. In such meetings, Full Members shall have 2 (two) representatives having 1 (one) vote each, to be selected in accordance with Article 20.
 - b) To draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Body;
 - c) To nominate candidates for election for the post of President of AIFF and other posts in the Executive Committee;
 - d) To take part in Competitions owned/organized/sanctioned by AIFF.
 - e) To take part in AIFF's assistance and development programmes;
 - f) To bid for holding national Football championships, zonal championships or any other activities;
 - g) To exercise all other rights arising from this Constitution and other AIFF Regulations.
- 13.3 Provisional Members and Associate Members only have the following rights:
- a) To participate in the Competitions owned/organized/ sanctioned by the AIFF;
 - b) To attend the General Body meetings, with no voting rights. Each Provisional Member and Associate Member shall be represented by one (1) duly authorised delegate each.
- 13.4 The above rights of Members are subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the applicable Regulations.
- 13.5 The Full Member & Associate Member who were affiliated to the AIFF as on the date of coming to force of the present Constitution shall continue as Full Members & Associate Members of the AIFF respectively under the present Constitution.

Article 14: Admission of Members

14.1 Eligibility Criteria of and Procedure for Admission of Full / Provisional Members:

- 14.1.1 A legal entity registered as a not-for-profit company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 or under the Companies Act, 1956, or a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, having the sole objective of promotion and development of Football, and which body organizes and supervises Football in a State, may make an application in writing to the AIFF General Secretariat to become a Full Member of AIFF. As detailed hereinafter, the applicant entity shall initially apply for Provisional Membership, which may subsequently be converted to Full Membership in accordance with this Constitution.
- 14.1.2 There will be only one Member Association from each State. In this context, the expression State shall refer to a State or Union territory as specified in the Constitution of India.
- 14.1.3 Affiliation shall be given to a legal entity as a Member Association from a State provided such entity has the membership / affiliation of at least 50% (fifty percent) of the District Associations functioning in that State and affiliation of 50% of clubs which have participated in an AIFF or Member sanctioned tournament in the past three years.
- 14.1.4 The said legal entity, wishing to become a Member shall have organized and conducted a regular League for at least the past three years, within its own State or Union Territory before applying for a membership.
- 14.1.5 The applicant entity's constituent documents approved by the Registrar of Societies/Registrar of Companies or other appropriate statutory body framed in accordance with the AIFF Constitution, along with a list of its members/constituents and Affiliated Units shall be enclosed with the application for membership and shall contain the following mandatory provisions:
- a) A declaration to always comply with the statutes, regulations and decisions of AIFF, AFC, FIFA and all applicable laws as well as the Laws of the Game;
 - b) A declaration to always comply with the statutes, regulations and decisions of the appropriate regulatory authority/statutory body (Registrar of Societies/Registrar of Companies or other appropriate statutory body) as may be relevant;
 - c) A declaration that it recognizes the jurisdiction of the internal AIFF Judicial Bodies and the dispute resolution mechanism through arbitration as detailed in this Constitution along with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS) as specified in the FIFA, AFC & AIFF Regulations and to resolve any sporting matter provided for under such Regulations through the appropriate prescribed procedure for adjudicating the issue.
 - d) A declaration that if at any time, that entity allows an individual to whom a Disqualification Event is applicable or has become applicable, to attain or retain a position as an office-bearer of that entity, then that entity would be liable to face suspension and / or expulsion from the AIFF.
- 14.1.6 The Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes, appearing as Schedule I to this Constitution, shall regulate the procedure for admission of Provisional and Full Members.

14.2 Eligibility Criteria of and Procedure for Admission of Associate Members:

- 14.2.1 Railway Sports Promotion Board ("RSPB") and Services Sports Control Board ("SSCB") are the current Associate Members of the AIFF.
- 14.2.2 Any relevant government or public sector undertaking or entity which is active in Football or desirous of being involved in the promotion and development of Football in India, may be invited and inducted into the AIFF as an Associate Member from time to time as per the provisions of this Constitution.
- 14.2.3 Associate Members shall have jurisdiction over the units/ divisions and Players of their respective teams.
- 14.2.4 Units and divisions of Associate Members stationed at various States/Union Territories are entitled to affiliate themselves to the Full/Provisional Members where they are stationed so that the Players can participate in the Competitions open only to the Clubs affiliated to that Full/Provisional Member.
- 14.2.5 An Associate Member is entitled to select up to 30 (thirty) Players from its various units/divisions, for Competitions in which they participate. The remaining Players employed with the Associate Member may play for the Member Association with which they are registered.
- 14.2.6 Associate Members are not permitted to organise any Competition without prior written approval of the AIFF. It is mandatory for the Associate Members also to use the AIFF Systems for requesting such approval. All Member Associations and their Affiliated Units shall submit a report on the leagues/competitions organized and participated in the AIFF System at the end of every season.
- 14.2.7 Associate Members may participate in Competitions subject to the criteria provided in the regulations of the respective Competitions.
- 14.2.8 The Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes, appearing as Schedule I to this Constitution shall regulate the details of procedure for admission of Associate Members.

Article 15: Obligations of Member Associations:

- 15.1 Member Associations shall ensure that their own constitutions/memorandum of association/articles of association are framed strictly in accordance with this AIFF Constitution and all applicable laws including but not limited to provisions relating to composition of governing body / executive committee, minimum representation of female players in the respective governing body / executive committee, eligibility criteria for appointment to an executive committee and other bodies, including age and tenure restrictions and cooling off period, appointment of an electoral officer and procedure for conduct of elections as set out in Schedule III to this Constitution, prohibition of creating titular or honorary posts in Executive Committees by whatsoever name other than the Executive Committee Members, disqualification events for membership, transparency and disclosure obligations, formation of an Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee and related dispute resolution mechanisms including AIFF Judicial Bodies, CAS, ICAS, creation of Standing Committees, dispute resolution by way of arbitration as set out in this Constitution, etc. Members are required to get these documents verified by the AIFF every 2 (two) years.

- 15.2 The General Body shall, if required, specify and / or revise the criteria regarding the minimum number of Clubs that are required to be affiliated to a Member Association. However, notwithstanding the above, a Member Association must ensure that there are fully functioning District Associations in each district under that Member Association, and further, that Member Association must have and maintain the support of at least 50% (fifty percent) of the District Associations in their respective State/Union Territory. It is clarified that for Member Associations in whose territory every district does not have a functioning District Association, a time of up to 3 (three) years shall be specified by the General Body for ensuring the existence of the same, failing which that Member Association shall be expelled.
- 15.3 Affiliated units of Member Associations shall always be compliant with the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of AIFF, AFC, FIFA and their bodies and all applicable laws.
- 15.4 In the event that there is a conflict between the provisions of the constitution, regulations, bye laws etc. of the Member Associations / Affiliated Units on the one hand and those of AIFF, AFC or FIFA on the other hand, the provisions of the latter shall prevail.
- 15.5 Member Associations will admit a Club as a member of the said Club meets its membership/affiliation criteria. In case the decision of membership/affiliation is not communicated to the Club within 3 (three) months of its application, the Club will be deemed to be a member/ affiliate of the relevant Member Association. In such cases, the membership/affiliation fee and criteria will be uniform with Clubs of the same status as mentioned in the statutes and regulations of the relevant Member Association, at the time of application for membership/affiliation.
- 15.6 If a Member Association, required to submit the annual or other accounts, balance sheets or statements of expenditure either under this Constitution or under the rules/regulations of any tournament/match, or under the resolutions or decisions of the AIFF relating to any grant/subsidy/reimbursement, fails to submit the accounts or the statements of expenditure relating to such grant, tournament, match or otherwise, within the period stipulated thereunder, the concerned association shall not be entitled to any further financial grant/subsidy/reimbursement from the AIFF till the requirement is complied with. Provided that notwithstanding the above, nothing shall prevent the AIFF, for reasons to be documented in writing, from extending for a maximum period of 6 (six) months, the time for submitting of accounts and statements beyond the period referred to above.
- 15.7 A Member Association's and its Affiliated Units' governing bodies shall be elected and such Member Association's and its Affiliated Units' statutes shall provide for a democratic procedure that guarantees the complete independence and transparency of the election, in consonance with the procedure for holding elections to AIFF as laid out in Schedule III of this Constitution. Any Member Association's and its Affiliated Units' bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with the provisions of this Article, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by the AIFF. Decisions passed by bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with this Article shall be void and will not be recognised by the AIFF.
- 15.8 To take part in Competitions, including those organised by AIFF.
- 15.9 To pay their membership subscriptions and dues on time.
- 15.10 All documents relating to the legal existence of the Member Association, their members as well

as their Affiliated Units shall be submitted to the AIFF via the AIFF Systems. For the avoidance of any doubts, the following documents need to be necessarily submitted:

- a) Certificate of incorporation/ Registration certificate;
- b) Constitution AOA/MOA/ Similar articles;
- c) Minutes of all general body meetings, including where elections were conducted.

All such information and documents need to be updated the AIFF Systems every year with the requisite legal documents.

- 15.11 To play Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB, to play futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game as issued or approved by FIFA and AIFF, to play beach soccer in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued or approved by FIFA and AIFF & to play any other type of Football in accordance with the relevant laws of the game for that type of Football issued or approved by the competent FIFA body or AIFF.
- 15.12 To comply fully with all other obligations for Member Associations arising from this Constitution, AIFF Regulations and all applicable laws.
- 15.13 To compulsorily conduct Competitions for different age groups (for both men and women) among its Affiliated Units at District and State level on an annual basis.
- 15.14 To ensure compliance with the AIFF calendar of events so that competitions/events do not clash with AIFF events.
- 15.15 All Member Associations and their Affiliated Units shall submit a report on the leagues/competitions organized and participated in the AIFF System at the end of every season.
- 15.16 To ensure the release of Players affiliated to the Members and their Affiliated Units as per the stipulations of the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 15.17 To fulfil such criteria as laid down by the AIFF in relation to development and promotion of Football in the respective State/Union Territory.
- 15.18 To ensure that any decision regarding entering into fresh agreements or arrangements for commercial and other rights, or renewal thereof, is duly studied and approved by at least 75% (seventy five percent) of the members of that Member Association eligible to vote at a meeting of the concerned association.
- 15.19 To communicate in a timely manner to AIFF any proposed amendment of the statutes and regulations of the Member.
- 15.20 To communicate to AIFF any amendment in the names of officials or persons who are authorized signatories for that Member Association, with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties, within 30 (thirty) days of such amendment.
- 15.21 To specify in any contract that it concludes with a Player or Official, an article by which any dispute requiring resolution or arbitration arising out of the said contract or related to it accedes to the jurisdiction of the AIFF Judicial Bodies as detailed in this Constitution.
- 15.22 An obligation for its general body to elect the members of its executive body.

- 15.23 To abstain from any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognized by the Government of India, AIFF, AFC and/or FIFA or with Members and that have been suspended or expelled.
- 15.24 An obligation to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play.
- 15.25 All other obligations arising out of this Constitution or out of the Regulations, directives and decisions of AIFF.
- 15.26 To convene its general body meeting at least once every year on or before October 15 of that year.
- 15.27 To be held responsible for the good conduct and all financial commitments of their affiliated Clubs towards AIFF, AFC and FIFA.
- 15.28 To notify AIFF promptly within 30 (thirty) days of any change in its membership, address and/or in the name of principal office-bearers and authorized signatories.
- 15.29 To manage its affairs independently, and without any direct or indirect influence from any third parties whatsoever.
- 15.30 To conduct timely annual independent audit of accounts through auditors empanelled with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, and maintain fully audited accounts and submit the annual report (containing financial statements, auditors' reports, activity report and other salient features of activities during the year etc) to the Executive Committee of the AIFF each year and also make the same available and accessible forthwith on the public domain including a publicly accessible website, with details provided on how the monies granted by the AIFF and the Government were expended towards the promotion of the sport and the welfare of Players, if any.
- 15.31 To recognize each of the other Member Associations as the sole controlling body of Football in their respective territories.
- 15.32 Not to form themselves into regional associations or federations without the prior approval of AIFF.
- 15.33 To notify AIFF of elections to that Member Association, to which an independent observer shall be sent by AIFF, who shall be as provided under Schedule III Clause 2.2.
- 15.34 To notify AIFF of any disciplinary action taken by a Member Association against any individual or Constituent Unit.
- 15.35 To take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of female Players and Players below the age of 18 (eighteen).
- 15.36 To incur expenses on all aspects of Players' welfare, accommodation, transport and daily allowance and to ensure that the Players do not incur any out of pocket expenses when representing the District or State.
- 15.37 To inform and update, on or before October 15 of each year, as to the names of their office bearers and the members of their respective governing bodies/managing committees, their respective

tenures, the audited statement of accounts and the balance sheets.

- 15.38 To formulate a long term development plan for the categories of junior football including U-19, U-15 and U-13 for boys and girls.
- 15.39 Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member shall be a ground for imposition of any of the sanctions provided for in this Constitution, including suspension and expulsion.

Article 16: Grounds for De-recognition and Withholding of Benefits from Member Associations

- 16.1 In the event of any Member Association failing to comply with the obligations enumerated in this Constitution the AIFF shall suspend their benefits including any funding or grant being provided to them.
- 16.2 In the event of a grant being denied to any Full Member as mentioned above, the AIFF shall directly spend the grant, if any applicable, in respect of the State concerned in its capacity as *parens patriae*.
- 16.3 If AIFF has to withhold and/or reallocate/redistribute any grant/benefit and/or suspect/expel any Member Association because of any of the factors mentioned above, AIFF shall also write to the concerned state government as well as the Government of India and related authorities and organisations, pointing out the same and specifying suggested corrective steps in this regard whilst requesting for cessation of funding and affiliation/recognition to such association till corrective steps are undertaken as mentioned.
- 16.4 In addition to the above, the concerned Member Association shall not be allowed to host or participate in any state or national level tournament till corrective steps are undertaken as mentioned.
- 16.5 If any Member Association continues to be disentitled for a grant, if any applicable, as mentioned above for a continuous period of 2 (two) years, the AIFF shall derecognize the association as a Member, and in its place, recognize any other association from that State which complies with the prescribed requirements as mentioned in this Constitution.

Article 17: Suspensions and Resignations

- 17.1 The General Body has the authority to suspend a Member Association, with or without a recommendation to that effect by the Executive Committee, if the conduct of the Member Association is adverse to the best interests of Football, or if the Member Association has violated or fails to fulfil its obligations as a Member Association or the provisions of this Constitution, including financial obligations, or the terms of affiliation or membership through which such Member Association is recognised by the AIFF.
- 17.2 The Executive Committee may also suspend a member if the conduct of the Member Association is adverse to the best interests of Football or the AIFF, or has violated its obligations as a Member Association with immediate effect after giving fair opportunity to be heard. Such suspension shall last until the following General Body Meeting, unless the Executive Committee has lifted the suspension in the meantime, with reasons for the same to be recorded in writing, provided that at least 75% (seventy five percent) of the individuals entitled to vote in the Executive Committee

meeting on that date agree for the same. Any such revocation of suspension by the Executive Committee, shall be subject to final review and approval of the General Body.

- 17.3 Before a vote on suspension is undertaken by the General Body, the Executive Committee shall issue a show-cause notice to the Member detailing the grounds on which its suspension is being contemplated and inviting a response. Such show-cause notice shall be accompanied by any and all relevant document(s) referenced in the show-cause notice or otherwise relevant to the grounds on which suspension is being contemplated. The Member Association shall be granted a period of 30 (thirty) days from the date of issuance of such show cause notice to reply to the grounds on which its suspension is being sought. The show-cause notice and reply, if any, by the Member Association, shall be circulated to the General Body at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting at which the vote on the suspension of the Member is tabled. A proposal to suspend a Member Association must receive approval from at least 2/3rd (two-third) majority of the votes taken, provided that at least a majority, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent) quorum of the Member Associations entitled to vote in the General Body meeting on that date is satisfied.
- 17.4 A suspended Member Association shall lose its membership rights. Other Member Associations shall not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member Association.
- 17.5 In addition to the sanctions imposed by the General Body, the Disciplinary Committee and the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee may impose sanctions in all matters coming under their purview.
- 17.6 Member Associations which do not participate in at least 3 (three) Competitions owned / organized by AIFF in a Season and do not organize at least 1 (one) league competition for the senior teams of the registered clubs of that Member Association every year, shall be served with a warning and may be suspended from participating in any voting activity at the General Body until they have participated in at least three Competitions owned/organized by AIFF in the next Season and have organized at least 1 (one) league competition for the senior teams of the registered clubs of that Member Association. If such Member Association is unable to comply with the above for 2 (two) consecutive years, the AIFF shall suspend the Member Association and may impose a financial penalty. Member Associations who do not comply with the above in 3 (three) successive Seasons shall be automatically expelled by the AIFF.
- 17.7 Members who do not pay their subscription fees and dues within the stipulated period shall lose their rights under this Constitution, provided that Members in arrears shall be restored to the privileges of membership immediately upon payment of full arrears plus a surcharge amounting to 20% (20 percent) of arrears as penalty within a period of no longer than 90 (ninety) days following the end of the concerned Financial Year.
- 17.8 A Member Association may resign from AIFF with effect from the end of a calendar year. Notice of resignation must reach the General Secretariat no later than 6 (six) months before the end of the calendar year and be sent to the General Secretariat by a registered letter of request.
- 17.9 The resignation of a Member Association shall not be considered valid by AIFF until the said Member Association wishing to resign has completely fulfilled its financial obligations towards AIFF and its other Member Associations, if any.
- 17.10 In case a Member Association which had previously resigned from AIFF membership, wishes to reacquire its membership with AIFF, the said Member Association shall have to re-apply as a Provisional Member' in accordance with the regulations for the same prescribed by AIFF in this

constitution.

- 17.11 A suspended Member may be reinstated at any time following suspension by a 2/3rd majority of the members of the General Body present and voting, provided that at least a majority, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent), of the quorum of the Members in the General Body on that date is satisfied. The suspended Member may be reinstated only if the said Member fulfils the conditions in accordance with Article 17.6.

Article 18: Expulsions

- 18.1 The General Body shall initiate the process under Article 18.2 for expulsion of a Member:
- (a) If it fails to fulfil its obligations under this Constitution, including financial obligations;
 - (b) If it violates its own statutes, rules, regulations, decisions, codes, and/or those of AIFF, AFC and/or FIFA or the Sports Code or any applicable laws;
 - (c) In case of a Full Member, if it loses the status of an association representing Football in its State.
- 18.2 Before a vote on expulsion is undertaken by the General Body, the Executive Committee shall issue a show-cause notice to the Member detailing the grounds on which its expulsion is being contemplated and inviting a response. Such show-cause notice shall be accompanied by any and all relevant document(s) referenced in the show-cause notice or otherwise relevant to the grounds on which suspension is being contemplated. The Member shall be granted a period of 30 (thirty) days from the date of issuance of such show cause notice to reply to the grounds on which its suspension is being sought. The show-cause notice and reply, if any, by the Member, shall be circulated to the General Body at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting at which the vote on the suspension of the Member is tabled. A proposal to suspend a Member must receive approval from at least 2/3rd (two-third) majority of the votes taken, provided that at least 75% (seventy five percent) quorum of the Members entitled to vote in the General Body meeting on that date is satisfied.

Article 19: Affiliated Units

- 19.1 Affiliated Units shall be affiliated to and recognized by that Member Association, being subordinate to such Member Association. All obligations and requirements placed on the Member Association under this Constitution shall be applicable *mutatis mutandis* to their Affiliated Units, including but not limited to each obligation in Article 15 above.
- 19.2 Every Member Association shall ensure that its Affiliated Units can take all decisions on any matters regarding membership, independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of an Affiliated Unit's corporate structure. In any case, neither a natural nor a legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries), shall exercise control, directly or indirectly, over more than one Affiliated Unit of a Member Association. In any Competition, neither a natural nor a legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries), shall exercise control, directly or indirectly, over more than one team.

CHAPTER IV: ORGANISATION**A. GENERAL BODY****Article 20: General Body**

- 20.1 A General Body Meeting may be an ordinary AGM (Annual General Body Meeting) or an SGM (Special General Body Meeting).
- 20.2 Every Full Member shall be represented at such meetings by 2 (two) representatives. One representative shall be nominated by the Executive Committee of that Full Member to be part of the AIFF General Body meetings as the representative of the State Football Administration. The other representative is intended to be a representative of the Players of that State and shall mandatorily be an Eminent Player from that State to be selected in the manner set out hereinafter. Both representatives of the Full Member shall have 1 (one) vote each. Voting by letter or proxy shall not be permitted. Provisional & Associate Members shall be represented by one representative each, however such representative shall not have the right to vote.
- 20.3 The Eminent Player representative referred above in Article 20.2 shall be selected from a comprehensive list of Eminent Players to be maintained by the AIFF in the following manner. :
- Two lists of Eminent Players shall prepared for each Full Member by the AIFF, one for the male players and the other for female players from that State satisfying the criteria of “Eminent Player”. Both Lists for all Full Members shall be published on the website of AIFF.
 - The said list shall be prepared in the format of individual roster points. To encourage gender parity in player representation, alternate roster points in the list shall be reserved for different genders, as explained below.
 - Odd numbered roster points (eg. 1, 3, 5, etc.) shall be allotted to Eminent Players of any one gender (for example female players) in order of their seniority, i.e. Point 1 will be allotted to the Eminent Player of that State and that gender who has played the maximum number of international competitive matches at the senior level, Point 3 will be allotted to the Eminent Player of that gender who has played the second highest number of matches and so on.
 - Even numbered roster points (eg. 2, 4, 6, etc.) shall be allotted to Eminent Players of the other gender (in this example male players) in order of their seniority, i.e. Point 2 will be allotted to the Eminent Player of that State and that gender who has played the maximum number of international competitive matches at the senior level, Point 4 will be allotted to the Eminent Player of that gender who has played the second highest number of matches and so on.
 - For either gender, if two eligible Eminent Players have played the same number of international competitive matches, then the Eminent Player who is older in age shall be allotted the higher roster point.
 - By way of illustration, the State-wise Eminent Players’ list would be prepared in the following manner:

Table of Eminent Players of [Insert Name of State]

S. No.	Gender	Name	Number of Matches
1.	Female	Suman	32
2.	Male	Ram	143
3.	Female	Rani	27
4.	Male	Tenzing	132
5.	Female	Lata	26

6.	Male	Irrfan	112
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In the above manner, alternate roster points are allotted to players of the same gender in order of their seniority inter se that gender.

- g) Once all Eminent Players mentioned in a list have been nominated once (i.e. all Eminent Players have served 1 (one) term each) to the General Body as per their respective roster points, the subsequent nominations for the Eminent Player representative will again begin from Serial No. 1 and continue in succeeding terms in the same fashion as set out above.

- 20.4 Attendance of an AGM or an SGM by video conference or by any other means of communication as informed prior to such meetings, shall constitute presence. When an AGM or an SGM is held by teleconference, by video conference or by any other means of communication, voting online is not permitted only for the specific purpose of taking disciplinary actions or holding elections.
- 20.5 Any and all persons, delegates, office bearers or representatives of any Member shall, without exception, cease to hold their designations and/or posts on attaining the age of seventy (70) years, or in the event of satisfying any of the other criteria which has been deemed to be a Disqualification Event under this Constitution. It is specifically clarified that such individuals shall be ineligible to represent the concerned Member Association at any AIFF meeting. In the event of office-bearers (which shall mean any and all elected individuals in that Member Association) who attain the age of 70 (seventy) years while in office, such individuals shall be deemed to have ceased to hold office with effect from such date, and the concerned post shall immediately be deemed to be vacated. A suitable replacement for such individual is required to be elected as per specified norms. An individual who has attained the age of 70 (seventy) shall not continue in his or her post in an interim or caretaker capacity or be eligible to attend any AIFF meeting in such capacity.
- 20.6 A member of the Executive Committee of the AIFF shall not have voting right during an AGM or an SGM. He or she shall not be nominated as the representative of the respective Member Association during his or her tenure as member of the Executive Committee of the AIFF.
- 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.
- 20.8 All powers of governance, management and decision making shall vest in the General Body and it may delegate such powers to the Executive Committee and General Secretary as it deems fit.
- 20.9 The General Body of the AIFF shall have the following powers and functions:
- a) To formulate the policies of the AIFF and the principles on which they shall be carried out;
 - b) To elect Office-Bearers of the Executive Committee at the expiry of their terms;
 - c) To frame and revise rules for membership of the AIFF as may be required from time to time;
 - d) To impose and enforce penalties, including fines, sanctions, suspension and expulsion of members in accordance with this Constitution, for any violation of this Constitution or applicable AIFF Regulations as well as statutes, rules and regulations issued by the FIFA or IFAB;

- e) To control the dues and funds of AIFF and expend the same in the best manner possible;
- f) To appoint auditors to examine and certify the accounts and balance sheet of the AIFF annually and to fix their remuneration;
- g) To review and approve the budget of the AIFF;
- h) To amend the Constitution when considered necessary in accordance with the procedure prescribed herein;
- i) To enrol new state associations and sports control boards/organizations;
- j) To raise funds for the AIFF and receive grants from the Government and any other authority and to administer the same;
- k) To explain and interpret this Constitution and any other rules and Regulations of the AIFF and to render decisions on any matter not covered therein;
- l) To maintain affiliation with FIFA, AFC and IOA;
- m) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution regarding manner of dealing with Rights and maintaining overall control of the AIFF over its Competitions and Rights therein, to decide regarding whether to renew existing commercial arrangements and agreements pertaining to commercial and other rights as well as and to decide regarding whether to enter into any new commercial arrangements and agreements pertaining to commercial and other rights as well as determining a transparent, judicious and equitable process for the above keeping the best interests of Football in mind.
Provided that any decision regarding such agreement and/or arrangement for a period longer than 4 (four) years must be approved at an AGM/SGM by at least 75% (seventy five percent) of the Members present and eligible to vote. Further, in the event that there is any decision to be made regarding such agreement and/or arrangement exceeding amount Rs. 1,00,00,000 (Indian Rupees One Crore), it must be approved at an AGM/SGM by at least 75% (seventy five percent) of the Members present and eligible to vote;
- n) To suspend any Member from the national competition(s), provided that no Member shall be suspended without due adherence to the process as laid down in this Constitution in line with the principles of natural justice;
- o) To reinstate any suspended Member upon substantial cause being shown by such Member for revocation of the suspension;
- p) To appoint the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the AIFF Judicial Bodies;
- q) To set up and/or dissolve ad hoc committees, if and as necessary, at any time and compile the regulations for the organization and functioning of Standing Committees and ad hoc committees;
- r) To create and appoint sub-committees as and when required for smooth functioning and conduct of the Football and frame by-laws for this purpose, as well as revise the mandate of existing Standing Committees and Judicial Bodies, provided that the functioning of each such subcommittee and committee shall be captured in annual reports to the General Body at the AGM, and may be dissolved by the General Body for any reason, provided that any such act would require approval of at least the majority of the members of the General Body, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent);
- s) To invite in a consultative capacity, if required, qualified professionals like accountants, advocates, doctors specially designated by the General Body;
- t) To borrow, receive payment of any sum or sums of money, with interest or otherwise, from banks, financial institutions, corporate and/or any other persons for the purpose of the AIFF in such manner as the General Body may approve and for that purpose to mortgage, charge all or any part of the movable fixed and current assets of AIFF;
- u) To review any decision of the Executive Committee.

Article 21: Ordinary Annual General Body Meeting and Agenda

- 21.1 The AGM or Annual General Meeting of the General Body shall be held annually, at least once every year on or before December 30 of that year at such place and time as the President may fix.
- 21.2 Elections and Nominations to the Executive Committee shall take place every 4 (four) years only at the AGM by way of a secret ballot.
- 21.3 Notice of the holding of the AGM shall be issued by the General Secretary individually to all members entitled to vote and/or participate at least 30 (thirty) days prior to the date fixed for the AGM by Registered Post, Speed Post and electronic mail, and shall maintain a record of tracking reports of the notices sent by Registered and Speed Post. Such notice shall specify the place, date and agenda for the Meeting, which agenda shall not be altered thereafter, prior to the AGM. The notice shall include copies of the minutes of the previous meeting or meetings to be confirmed at the AGM, copies of auditor's reports and audited statement of accounts to be adopted and to be passed at the AGM, the annual budget and copies of all documents and papers having a reference to any item on the agenda of the AGM and circulated by way of email (on official AIFF email ids) to all Members and also published on the official AIFF website at the same time.
- 21.4 Any member desiring to raise any point relating to the agenda or accounts at the AGM shall give 7 (seven) days' notice thereof to the General Secretary. The Secretary shall circulate such notice to all members at least 4 (four) days before the date fixed for the AGM.
- 21.5 The quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall be a majority, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent), of the members of the General Body who are entitled to vote in the AGM as on the date of issuance of the notice as above.
- 21.6 The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals or items as received from the Executive Committee or member(s). Any proposal that a member wishes to submit to the ordinary AGM (Annual General Body Meeting) shall be sent to the General Secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least 35 (thirty five) days before the date of the AGM, or within 5 (five) days of the announcement of the date of the AGM.
- 21.7 The following, not being an exhaustive list, shall be a part of the agenda of an AGM and shall indicate part of the business to be conducted at an AGM, in addition to any other item or business added to the agenda by the members or the President:
- a) a declaration that the AGM has been convened and composed in compliance with the Constitution;
 - b) roll call;
 - c) approval of the agenda;
 - d) address by the President;
 - e) appointment of 3 (three) members to check the minutes;
 - f) appointment of 3 (three) scrutinizers (if applicable);
 - g) suspension or expulsion of a member (if applicable);
 - h) approval of the Minutes of the preceding AGM or SGM;
 - i) review and adoption of General Secretary's activity report (containing the activities since the last AGM);
 - j) consideration and passing of the audited statement of accounts and balance sheet of AIFF for the preceding Financial Year, consideration of any report(s) and/or recommendations of the Executive Committee, the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee and the

Standing Committees and to propose policy directions to the Executive Committee as well as review and approval of any proposed amendments to the Regulations of the AIFF, provided no amendment to the Regulations of the AIFF proposed by a Full Member shall be considered unless the proposals for amendments are received by the General Secretariat at least 25 (twenty five) days before the concerned AGM;

- k) approval of the annual budget;
- l) fix the amount of the annual subscription for Members, (if applicable);
- m) admission of new member for membership (if applicable);
- n) discussion of proposals submitted by the members and the Executive Committee within the stipulated period (if applicable);
- o) votes on proposals for amendments to this Constitution (if applicable);
- p) appointment of auditors for next Financial Year and their remuneration;
- q) holding elections of Office-Bearers (when applicable);
- r) conduct of any such business that may have been specifically notified;
- s) appointment of the Standing Committees and AIFF Judicial Bodies (if applicable).

21.8 The agenda of an AGM may be altered during an AGM, provided 75% (seventy five percent) of the members present at the AGM and eligible to vote agree to such a motion. In the absence of such agreement, no item not specifically included in the agenda may be discussed or decided on.

21.9 In case of extraordinary circumstances, if certain or all agenda items of an AGM cannot be taken up then they may be taken up in an SGM to be convened and held within 3 (three) months of the first AGM, provided 2/3rd (two-third) of the members present at the first AGM and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.

21.10 The annual report, audited statement of account and other relevant papers pertaining to the AGM of the General Body shall be circulated to all members along with the notice calling for the AGM and specifying its agenda and circulated by way of email (on official AIFF email ids) to all members and also published on the official AIFF website at the same time. The record of the proceedings of the AGM shall, after the approval of the Chairperson of the Meeting be circulated within 2 (two) months of the meeting to the members and in case there is no objection from any member within a period of one month after such circulation, then the said record shall be entered into the Minutes Book and shall be confirmed by the Chairperson forthwith. In case of decisions requiring urgent implementation, the AGM may specify a shorter period for raising objections after circulation and record the reasons for the same in writing. The minutes shall be duly confirmed after correction, if any, and signed by the Chairperson at the subsequent Annual General Meeting.

Article 22: Special General Body Meeting

22.1 An SGM or Special General Meeting may be called by the General Secretary, by providing notice of at least 18 (eighteen) days, upon either a directive to that effect from the President, or a resolution to that effect passed by the Executive Committee or upon receipt of a written requisition signed to that effect by a majority, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent), of the members of the General Body. The notices should be sent to each individual by Registered Post, Speed Post and electronic mail, and the General Secretary shall maintain a record of tracking reports of the notices sent by Registered and Speed Post.

22.2 If the General Secretary fails to convene an SGM within sixty days of the receipt of a written requisition for the same signed by a majority, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent), of the members

of the General Body, the concerned members of the General Body may convene and conduct an SGM notwithstanding such failure, provided that the meeting in question follows all the provisions, processes and timelines as detailed in this Constitution and provided that the meeting is minuted. The notice for such meeting must specify the agenda and must contain the signatures of the members at whose instance the meeting is being convened. It is clarified that during such a meeting, business can be conducted and agenda points can be discussed and voted upon as per normal procedure, and appropriate action can also be taken, agreed upon, directed and/or implemented. Provided that no item not specifically included in the agenda may be discussed or decided.

- 22.3 The President may at his discretion, or the Executive Committee may by way of a resolution to that effect, direct the General Secretary to convene an SGM at shorter notice in which case a notice of at least 10 (ten) days shall be given. In the event of the General Secretary failing to convene an SGM at the direction of the President or on a resolution of the Executive Committee within 10 (ten) days, the President may convene a meeting under his own signature.
- 22.4 The quorum for the Special General Body Meeting shall be a majority, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent), of the members of the General Body who are entitled to vote in the SGM as on the date of issuance of the notice as above.

Article 23: Amendments to the Constitution

- 23.1 The AIFF Constitution, Schedules thereto and Regulations can be amended at a Meeting of the AIFF, provided that such provisions shall not be repealed, added to, amended or altered except when a resolution to that effect is passed and adopted by a 75% (seventy five percent) majority of the members present and entitled to vote at a Special General Meeting of the General Body convened for the purpose or at any Annual General Meeting. The quorum for any such Meeting shall be 75% of the total strength of the General Body.
- 23.2 Any proposals for an amendment to this Constitution must be submitted in writing by at least 3 (three) members jointly with a brief explanation to the General Secretariat by a Member or by a member of the Executive Committee 25 (twenty five) days before the date of the concerned meeting.

Article 24: Minutes

- 24.1 The entire proceedings of General Body Meetings, both AGMs and SGMs, are required to be recorded and preserved securely in an unedited form on video by AIFF, and the minutes shall also be duly paginated and preserved by AIFF in a minute book.

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 25: Office-Bearers of AIFF and Composition of the Executive Committee

- 25.1 AIFF shall have the following Office-Bearers who shall all constitute the Executive Committee:
- a) 1 (one) President;
 - b) 1 (one) Treasurer;

- c) 10 (ten) members, out of whom at least 5 (five) shall be Eminent Players. Further, out of the Eminent Players, at least 2 (two) shall be female Eminent Players.

Provided that if any position on the Executive Committee falls vacant, the same shall be filled no later than the next AGM. In the interim, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall continue to exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the Executive Committee as if fully constituted and in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

- 25.2 Apart from the above Office Bearers, no titular designation or other honorary position shall be created in the AIFF, by any other name such as “Life President”, “Chief Patron”, “Chairman”, “Director” etc.

- 25.3 At any given point of time:

- a) No Office-Bearer shall hold any office in any other federation or association (of a sport other than football) affiliated to the IOA directly or indirectly. If any person who already holds a post or office in the said federation or association is elected to the Executive Committee of the AIFF, he or she shall demit the previously held post forthwith.
- b) In the event a person is elected as an Office-Bearer in the Executive Committee of the AIFF and holds a position of an Office-Bearer in a Member Association, he/she shall automatically be deemed to have vacated his/her position in the Member Association.
- c) Similarly, in the event that a person is elected as an Office-Bearer in a Member Association and holds a position of an Office-Bearer in the Executive Committee of the AIFF, he/she shall automatically be deemed to have vacated his/her position in the Member Association.
- d) In case of suspension / expulsion of the Member of which the individual is a representative, the office held by its representative shall be deemed to have been vacated.
- e) No person drawing any salary or financial benefit from the AIFF for any services provided or rendered to the AIFF shall be a part of the Executive Committee, except for the General Secretary (in an ex-officio capacity).

- 25.4 A candidate for the post of an AIFF Office-Bearer must be a citizen and resident of India.

- 25.5 If the President is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his/her official function, the Executive Committee shall decide a person from the Executive Committee to represent him or her until the next AGM (Annual General Body Meeting) or SGM, whichever is earlier.

- 25.6 In case of any vacancy arising in the Executive Committee, election for such post shall be held at the subsequent AGM or by convening an SGM as per the procedure detailed in this Constitution.

- 25.7 A member of the Executive Committee cannot, at the same time, be a member of any of the Judicial Bodies of the AIFF.

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.

Article 27: Removal of Office-Bearers

- 27.1 Office-bearer(s) may be removed by a vote of no-confidence passed by the General Body in an AGM or SGM called for this purpose, provided that such resolution must receive the affirmative vote of at least 2/3rds (two-thirds) of the members present and voting, and provided further that a quorum of a majority, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent), of the total members of the General Body entitled to participate and vote in such meeting, is present.
- 27.2 When any Member(s) seeks tabling of a vote of no-confidence against any Office-Bearer as an item on the agenda of a meeting, such item shall be intimated to the AIFF General Secretariat specifying the grounds on which the removal of the Office-Bearer(s) is being sought. The AIFF General Secretariat shall include the item in the agenda of the subsequent meeting, subject to the fulfilment of the provisions of Article 27.3 below.
- 27.3 Upon being intimated by any member(s) about a proposed vote of no-confidence against any Office Bearer, the AIFF General Secretariat is required to immediately issue a written notice to the Office Bearers) specifying the grounds on which the removal of the Office-Bearer(s) is being sought. Such notice shall be issued at least 20 (twenty) days prior to the date on which the subsequent meeting has been called, and the Office-Bearer(s) shall be granted 10 (ten) days to respond to the same in writing. The notice and response(s), if any, shall be circulated to the Members at least 7 (seven) days before the date of the meeting.
- 27.4 If the AIFF General Secretariat receives the intimation regarding proposed tabling of a vote of no- confidence against any Office-Bearer with less than 20 (twenty) days to go before the next meeting is to be held, than the item may be taken up at the subsequent meeting, after completion of the process as mentioned in Article 27.3.

Article 28: Meetings of Executive Committee

- 28.1 The President has the authority to convene the Executive Committee meeting whenever though necessary, through the aegis of the General Secretary, provided that the Executive Committee shall meet at least once every quarter in a calendar year. However, if 3 (three) members of the Executive Committee request a meeting, the President shall convene it within a period of 30 (thirty) days from the receipt of the written request.
- 28.2 Notice of the holding of the meeting of the Executive Committee shall be issued in writing by the General Secretary, individually to all members entitled to participate at least 14 (fourteen) days prior to the date fixed, by Registered Post, Speed Post and electronic mail, and the General Secretary shall maintain a record of tracking reports of the notices sent by Registered and Speed Post. Such notice shall specify the place, date and agenda for the meeting, which agenda shall not be altered thereafter, prior to the meeting. However, the General Secretary may, with the consent of the majority of Executive Committee expressed in writing through electronic means or circulation, convene any such meeting with shorter notice.
- 28.3 The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be at least a majority, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent), of its members eligible to vote in such meeting.
- 28.4 Any decision of the Executive Committee requires the positive vote of at least at least a majority, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent), of its members present and voting.
- 28.5 The President shall compile the agenda with the assistance of the General Secretariat. Each individual who is a part of the Executive Committee is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda.
- 28.6 If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the members attending will unanimously decide on the Chairperson.
- 28.7 A decision of the Executive Committee may be taken by circulation through written or electronic means amongst its members in case of urgency. For this purpose, the President can convene an emergency Executive Committee meeting for urgent matters, which have to be decided in a period shorter than 14 (fourteen) days. Such meeting may be convened within 2 (two) days, if a request to that effect has been approved by at least a majority, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent), of the members of the Executive Committee. If the President is unable to attend such a meeting, the members attending will unanimously decide on the Chairperson.
- 28.8 In the event that the required quorum necessary for an emergency Executive Committee meeting is unable to meet physically, such emergency meeting may be held via video conferencing, except for the specific purpose of holding elections.

Article 29: Powers and Duties of the Executive Committee

- 29.1 The Executive Committee shall conduct and guide and govern the general management and direction of the AIFF for carrying out the objectives of the AIFF.
- 29.2 The Executive Committee shall supervise and ensure the performance of the respective roles, responsibilities and powers of the General Secretary and Standing Committees and ensure a distribution and balance of authority so that no single individual has unfettered powers. The

Executive Committee has the authority to maintain relations with international and national sporting bodies and whenever required, the Executive Committee shall appoint the delegates from AIFF's Executive Committee or from any other Member Association or any other representative on behalf of the AIFF to FIFA, AFC, IOA and/or any other organization.

- 29.3 The Executive Committee shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President.
- 29.4 The President and the Treasurer shall have the right to attend the meetings of all the Standing Committees and the General Body ex-officio.
- 29.5 The Executive Committee shall approve the place and dates of all AIFF Competitions.
- 29.6 Subject to confirmation at a General Body meeting, the Executive Committee shall approve regulations stipulating how AIFF shall be organized internally.
- 29.7 The Executive Committee may recommend to the General Body membership of organizations which are eligible to obtain membership under the AIFF Constitution.
- 29.8 The Executive Committee has the authority to inspect, review and approve for the consideration of the General Body, with comments if any required, the annual report of AIFF covering salient features of the activities during the year, the draft budget and the annual financial statements as prepared and tabled after completion of the Financial Year.
- 29.9 The Executive Committee has the authority to appoint the Technical Director and Head Coaches for the senior national teams, based on the suggestions and/or recommendations in writing received for the same from the AIFF Technical and Development Committee.
- 29.10 The Executive Committee has the authority to carry out any other function necessary for the smooth functioning of AIFF and to conduct and promote Football in India.
- 29.11 The Executive Committee shall designate a suitable person as Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) and First Appellate Authority.
- 29.12 Other than Executive Committee members, no other person can attend meetings of the Executive Committee except for specific AIFF staff as may be required for briefing/explaining on agenda points.
- 29.13 The Executive Committee may invite in a consultative capacity, if required, qualified professionals like accountants, advocates, doctors specially designated by the General Body, provided that the specific and detailed reasons for such invite may be recorded in writing.
- 29.14 Notices of all meetings shall be issued by the AIFF General Secretariat.
- 29.15 The Executive Committee has the authority to approve the recommendations of any Standing Committee of the AIFF.
- 29.16 The Executive Committee has the authority to approve the Regulations for Competitions owned/organized by AIFF, as well as any amendments to the same.
- 29.17 The Executive Committee has the authority to form Committee(s) / Commission(s) to regulate

League(s) owned/organized/sanctioned by AIFF.

- 29.18 The Executive Committee has the authority to lay down the procedure for conduct of its meetings and those of the other bodies except the General Body, subject to the terms of this Constitution.
- 29.19 In addition to and without prejudice to the generality of powers conferred directly or by necessary implication under this Constitution, the Executive Committee shall exercise the powers and perform the duties hereafter mentioned:
- a) To control, expand and regulate the finances of the AIFF;
 - b) To institute or defend any action or proceedings for or against the AIFF or against any OfficeBearer or employee of the AIFF;
 - c) To mediate in regard to issues between Members;
 - d) To frame rules and lay down conditions including those of travel, accommodation and allowances for Players, Officials and staff, subject to review and ratification by the AIFF General Body at its next meeting, failing which the rules shall lapse;
 - e) To frame and revise rules for the national senior and youth championships subject to review and ratification by the AIFF General Body at its next meeting, failing which the rules shall lapse;
 - f) To frame rules regarding the appointment, service conditions and disciplinary action concerning employees and officers of the AIFF subject to review and ratification by the AIFF General Body at its next meeting, failing which the rules shall lapse;
 - g) To make rules generally for the management of the affairs of the AIFF subject to review and ratification by the AIFF General Body at its next meeting, failing which the rules shall lapse;
 - h) To start or sponsor and/or to subscribe to funds or stage a match for the benefit of Players or persons who may have rendered service to Football or for their families or to donate for the development or promotion of the game to be regulated by rules framed in this regard from time to time;
 - i) To either on its own, or through its delegate, entertain, hear and decide administrative appeals by employees or other directly affected parties against the orders or the Standing Committees as the case may be;
 - j) Generally, to do all such other acts and things which are delegated to it by the AIFF and all other functions to be expedient, convenient and/or conducive to the carrying out of the above functions of the Executive Committee.
- 29.20 The Executive Committee has the authority to perform such other duties as may be assigned by the General Body.
- 29.21 The Executive Committee may exercise authority in and pass decisions on all matters and areas not expressly assigned to some other body or committee, and which matters do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the General Body or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under this Constitution or the AIFF Regulations, provided that any action taken under this Article is subject to review, approval and/or ratification before the General Body by a majority of the Members present with voting powers at the next AGM. The quorum for any such meeting shall be as specified in Article 41.

C. OFFICE-BEARERS

Article 30: President

- 30.1 The President represents AIFF legally and shall preside over all meetings of the General Body and the Executive Committee.
- 30.2 He or she is primarily responsible for:
- a) Implementing the decisions passed by the General Body and the Executive Committee through the General Secretariat.
 - b) Supervising the work of the General Secretariat.
- 30.3 Relations between AIFF, its affiliated Members, political bodies, Government and non-government organizations, FIFA and AFC and national and international organizations. The President may propose the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary.
- 30.4 If the President is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his/her official function, the Executive Committee shall deputize as chairperson any one of their Members for that meeting only who shall chair that meeting.
- 30.5 Any additional powers as deemed required may be entrusted on the President by the General Body and/or the Executive Committee, with reasons for the same recorded in writing, while ensuring that any such additional powers do not conflict with any part of this Constitution.
- 30.6 The President may direct the General Secretary to convene meetings of the General Body and/or the Executive Committee on his behalf by following the procedure prescribed in this Constitution and shall perform such other duties attached to the office he holds.
- 30.7 The President shall enjoy, in addition to a deliberative vote in any decision of the General Body or Executive Committee, a casting vote in the event of a tie.

D. STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 31: Standing Committees

- 31.1 The Standing Committees of the AIFF are:
- a) Audit Committee;
 - b) Finance Committee;
 - c) Competitions and Leagues Committee;
 - d) Futsal & Beach Soccer Committee;
 - e) Referees Committee;
 - f) Technical Committee;
 - g) Development Committee;
 - h) Sports Medical Committee;
 - i) Women's Football Committee;
- 31.2 The Standing Committees shall have a minimum of 3 (three) members and maximum of seven (7) members, except where such composition has been specifically provided for. There shall also be

appropriate number of women in all Standing Committees. The Chairpersons of such Committees (except Audit Committee, Referees Committee, Technical Committee and Sports Medical Committee) shall be a member of the Executive Committee. Members of the Standing Committees shall be designated by the Executive Committee of the AIFF after due deliberation, provided that such individuals do not violate any Conflict of Interest provisions or Disqualification Events as stipulated in this Constitution. The Executive Committee shall endeavour to appoint such individuals as chairpersons of the Standing Committees who are found to have expertise on the subject dealt with by the respective Standing Committee. If any person or his or her Immediate Family Member, has a Material Business relationship with AIFF individually or through his or her organisation, such person shall not be appointed as a member of any Standing Committee.

- 31.3 The members of each Standing Committee shall be designated by the Executive Committee of the AIFF on the proposal of the Members of the AIFF or the President of the AIFF and should have due credentials and/or qualifications for serving in that committee. The chairperson, deputy chairperson and the members of each Standing Committee shall be designated for a term of office for a maximum of 4 (four) years, beginning upon the respective date of appointment. The terms of all the Standing Committees will end after the subsequent full elections for AIFF Office-Bearers, when a new committee shall be designated and appointed by the Executive Committee of the AIFF.
- 31.4 The composition, specific duties and powers of the individual Standing Committees, where required, shall be provided in greater detail in the relevant Standing Committee regulations, which are required to be framed and published within a period of 12 (twelve) months of this Constitution coming into effect. Further, such regulations shall be reviewed and updated on an annual basis, or earlier, as may be deemed appropriate, by the Executive Committee. The updated regulations shall be made available for access on public domain.
- 31.5 Members of the Standing Committees may be relieved of their duties at any time by the Executive Committee, provided that detailed reasons in writing for the same are prepared and recorded.
- 31.6 Each chairperson shall represent his or her committee and conduct business in compliance with the provisions of this Constitution and the relevant Standing Committee regulations, if any.
- 31.7 Each committee may, if necessary and if so permitted under the relevant Standing Committee regulations, set up, from amongst its members, a bureau and/or sub-committee to settle urgent matters.
- 31.8 Each committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Committee. However, any such amendment may only be carried out by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than 2/3rds of members present and voting in the General Body, subject to a minimum quorum of a majority, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent), of the total members.
- 31.9 The Standing Committees shall each review and approve the minutes of the meetings of that committee, which shall be filed with the General Secretariat for retention. Copies of such minutes shall be made available to the Executive Committee.

Article 32: Audit Committee

- 32.1. The members of the Audit Committee are required to be knowledgeable and experienced in auditory and/or financial and/or regulatory and legal matters, including taxation.

- 32.2. The Audit Committee shall advise and assist the Executive Committee on all auditory and financial compliance and transparency matters of AIFF and its responsibilities shall include, without limitation, the following:
- a) Advising the Executive Committee on the steps necessary to regulate and monitor the auditory and financial affairs of AIFF;
 - b) Reviewing the draft budget and financial statements prepared by the General Secretariat and making recommendations on the same to the Executive Committee;
 - c) Ensuring the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting procedures and processes followed by AIFF;
 - d) Reviewing the external auditors' report at the request of the Executive Committee;
 - e) Assessing and providing recommendations on the AIFF's internal control systems and risk management policies;
 - f) Annually reviewing the effectiveness of risk assessment, risk management and internal control systems at AIFF;
 - g) Reviewing reports and the effectiveness of the internal audit function;
 - h) Reviewing, at least annually, tax matters, including the status of income tax reserves and governmental tax audits and developments in this area;
 - i) Ensuring compliance with the applicable accounting standards.
- 32.3. The Audit Committee shall cooperate in its duties with the statutory & internal auditors.
- 32.4. The frequency of meetings is determined by the chairperson according to the needs and the urgency of matters to be dealt with, provided that the Audit Committee must hold at least 3 (three) meetings per year.

Article 33: Finance Committee

- 33.1 The members of the Finance Committee are required to be knowledgeable and experienced in financial matters.
- 33.2 The Finance Committee shall advise and assist the Executive Committee on all financial matters of AIFF and its responsibilities shall include, without limitation, the following:
- a) Reviewing the draft budget and financial statements prepared by the General Secretariat and making recommendations on the same to the Executive Committee;
 - b) Opening of current, savings, fixed deposit, overdraft, loan, cash credit, escrow and/or any other bank account with any bank;
 - c) Making reasoned recommendations in writing to the General Body to borrow, receive payment of any sum or sums of money, with interest or otherwise, from banks, financial institutions, corporate and/or any other persons for the benefit of the AIFF. The Finance Committee may also recommend to mortgage and/or charge all or any part of the movable fixed and current assets of AIFF, with reasons for any and all recommendations in writing along with the recommendations themselves;
 - d) Determining passage money, daily allowances and other expenses for delegates appointed to attend meetings of AIFF and other organisations relating to Football;
 - e) Placing before the General Body for sanction, any material expenditure not provided in the budget;
 - f) Recommending annual increments, provident fund, bonus, ex-gratia, dearness allowance,

- gratuity amounts for the AIFF staff to the General Body for approval;
- g) Dealing with other matters relating to the monitoring of AIFF's finances.

33.3 The frequency of meetings is determined by the chairperson according to the needs and the urgency of matters to be dealt with, provided that the Finance Committee must hold at least three (3) meetings per year.

Article 34: Competitions and Leagues Committee

34.1 The Competitions and Leagues Committee shall deal with all matters in connection with Competitions in accordance with this Constitution and all relevant Regulations.

34.2 The Competitions and Leagues Committee shall also deal with all matters in connection with the I-league, Indian Women's League (IWL), Youth Leagues (boys and girls) and other similar leagues not covered under the ambit of the Competitions Committee.

Article 35: Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee

35.1 The Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee shall initiate and organize AIFF Futsal and Beach Soccer Competitions in compliance with the relevant regulations and deal with general issues relating to Futsal and Beach Soccer or permit an Organiser to organise and operate such futsal and/or beach soccer football league.

Article 36: Referees Committee

36.1 The Referees Committee shall consist of 5 (five) members, where each member is required to be an ex-international Referee from India. The member of the Committee who has refereed the maximum number of international matches shall be the Chairperson. In the event of such a person not being available, any Referee who has officiated in at least 50 (fifty) matches recognised by the AIFF, shall be eligible to be appointed. The committee is required to:

- a) Regulate the organization of Referees, giving advice and assisting with all matters related to refereeing and Referees in compliance with the relevant FIFA regulations in this regard;
- b) Implement and interpret the Laws of the Game and may propose amendments to the Laws of the Game to the General Body for recommendation to FIFA;
- c) Approve the appointment of the Referees, assistant Referees, fourth officials, referee assessors and referee instructors for Football matches in Competitions owned/organized/registered by the AIFF; and
- d) Approve a panel of AIFF Elite Referees and Assistant Referees and Referee Instructors on a yearly basis.

36.2 All members serving on this Committee must disclose and declare any Conflict of Interest they may have. They must also disclose whether any family member, relative or close associate are referees at present.

36.3 Each member will only serve a maximum tenure of 1 (one) term in his/her lifetime.

Article 37: Technical Committee

- 37.1 The Technical Committee shall consist of 5 (five) individuals who satisfy the criteria of being an Eminent Player as per this Constitution. All the members of the Technical Committee are required to satisfy the independence criteria as mentioned in this Constitution and also be in alignment with the Conflict of Interest provisions specified in this Constitution. The Technical Committee shall primarily analyse the basic aspects of Football coaching, coach education and technical development and:
- a) recommend the measures as necessary for improvement of standard of the game in the country;
 - b) recommend matters relating to the technical aspects of the game;
 - c) recommend appointment and salary / allowance of coaches for the Senior Men's and Women's National Teams;
 - d) recommend coaching budget;
 - e) review and guide on affairs of grassroots and youth development;
 - f) watch certain matches annually, facilitated by the AIFF, with regard to which they are required to submit a detailed report of the matches watched and players they spotted;
 - g) recommend coaching programmes, frame guidelines and deal with all affairs of coach education.
- 37.2 The Technical Committee shall also deal with AIFF's national development programmes. It shall devise and propose appropriate strategies, check these strategies and analyse the support and programmes provided to Member Associations and their Affiliated Units in this regard. The Technical Committee shall in particular analyse the major development challenges at stake, advise and assist the Executive Committee on AIFF's development programmes, propose new development activities and address the related budget matters, advise on guidelines and regulations on development programmes, recommend the thematic focus, types of activity and budget allocation per State/ Union Territory and/or per Member Association.

Article 38: Development Committee

- 38.1 The Development Committee shall consist of at least 3 (three) members.
- 38.2 The Development Committee shall deal with the AIFF's national development programmes. It shall devise and propose appropriate strategies, check these strategies and analyse the support and programmes provided to Member Associations and their Affiliated Units in this regard. The Development Committee shall in particular analyse the major development challenges at stake, advise and assist the Executive Committee on the AIFF's development programmes:
- a) propose new development activities and address the related budget matters;
 - b) draw up guidelines and regulations on development programmes;
 - c) recommend the thematic focus;
 - d) types of activity and budget allocation per State/Union Territory and/or per Member Association.

Article 39: Sports Medical Committee

- 39.1 The Sports Medical Committee shall deal with all medical aspects of Football, and shall aid and

advise the AIFF on various related aspects thereto, including formation and revision of policies to prevent age- falsification, keep up with emerging technologies as well as improving existing sports medical policies and practices.

- 39.2 The members of this Committee shall necessarily have medical qualifications and must be practicing medical professionals.

Article 40: Women's Football Committee

- 40.1 The Women's Football Committee shall consist of 5 (five) members with a quorum of at least 3 (three) members. The committee is required to consist of at least 2 (two) female ex-players who satisfy the criteria for being an Eminent Player as mentioned in this Constitution. The Women's Football Committee shall deal with all matters related to women's Football in accordance with this Constitution and all relevant regulations including all women's Competitions.

Article 41: Quorum

- 41.1 The quorum for a General Body (AGM or SGM) meeting or any meeting of an AIFF Judicial Body or an AIFF Standing Committee or any other AIFF committee shall be a majority, i.e. more than 50% (fifty percent), of the total number of members entitled to vote at the meeting, unless a higher or lower threshold is specified in the Constitution itself or the respective Regulations/provisions.
- 41.2 No business shall be transacted at a meeting unless the quorum requisite is present at the commencement of the business of the meeting. If within an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same date of the following month, at the same place and time. If at the adjourned meeting the quorum is not present within an hour from the time of the meeting, the persons present shall form the quorum, provided that in this meeting no decision shall be taken with regard to amendment of the Constitution or Regulations framed thereunder, election of office bearers, suspension, reinstatement or dismissal of a Member or dissolution of the AIFF, which decisions can only be taken at a duly called Meeting with minimum quorum as prescribed in Article 41.1.

Article 42: Cessation of office in Standing Committees, Judicial Bodies and that of the Office-Bearers

- 42.1 The Office-Bearers or the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson or member of any Standing committee or Judicial Body shall cease to hold office with immediate effect in the event of any of the following:
- a) The concerned individual satisfies any of the criteria which has been deemed to be a Disqualification Event or under this Constitution;
 - b) The concerned individual has a conflict of interest as defined in this Constitution;
 - c) The concerned individual either directly or through her Immediate Family Member, has a Material Business relationship with AIFF individually or through any organization with which he is associated;
 - d) The concerned individual has given a false declaration in the nomination form for her or his election;

- e) The concerned individual submits her or his resignation;
- f) The concerned individual fails to attend 3 (three) consecutive meetings of their respective committees unless s/he has been granted leave of absence;
- g) The concerned individual is declared a defaulter for non-payment of dues or moneys owed to AIFF.

VI. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Article 43: Disciplinary Measures

43.1 The disciplinary measures or sanctions which the General Body may exercise or impose, in addition to such sanctions as may be already imposed by the relevant or concerned AIFF committee or Judicial Body, are primarily for:

43.1.1 individuals:

- a) a warning;
- b) a fine;
- c) a caution;
- d) expulsion;
- e) suspension for a specific number of matches or for a specific period of time;
- f) ban from team dressing room and/or team bench;
- g) ban from entering a stadium;
- h) ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
- i) withdrawal or confiscation of a title or an award; and
- j) social work.

43.1.2 for legal persons:

- a) a warning;
- b) a fine;
- c) full or partial stadium closure;
- d) order to play a match on neutral territory;
- e) ban on playing in a particular Stadium;
- f) annulment of the result of a match;
- g) disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition;
- h) defeat by forfeit;
- i) deduction of points (for a current or future competition);
- j) relegation to a lower division;
- k) order that a match be replayed;
- l) withdrawal or confiscation of a title or an award;
- m) withholding of revenues from an AIFF competition;
- n) prohibition on registering new Players in AIFF competitions;
- o) restriction on the number of Players that a Club may register for participation in AIFF competitions; and
- p) social work.

CHAPTER V: REGULATIONS AND JUDICIAL BODIES

Article 44: Indian Club Licensing System

- 44.1 The AIFF shall operate the Club Licensing system in accordance with the principles of the club licensing regulations of AFC and FIFA and the Indian Club Licensing Regulations (“ICLR”).
- 44.2 The objective of the Club Licensing system is to safeguard the credibility and integrity of Leagues, to improve the level of professionalism of Indian Football, to promote sporting values in accordance with the principles of fair play as well as safe and secure match environments, and to promote transparency in the finances, ownership and control of Clubs.
- 44.3 As a minimum requirement, the Club Licensing system must be implemented in respect of top division Clubs which qualify for AFC Club competitions on the basis of sporting merit and national Club Competitions. The Club Licensing bodies shall consist of the Club Licensing Committee and the Club Licensing Appeals Body.
- 44.4 The Club Licensing Regulations shall be reviewed and updated from time to time as required or as may be deemed appropriate to maintain parity with international best practices, by the AIFF.

Article 45: Judicial Bodies

- 45.1 The Judicial Bodies of the AIFF are:
- a) Disciplinary Committee;
 - b) Appeal Committee;
 - c) Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee;
 - d) Club Licensing Committee, which is the first instance body;
 - e) Players’ Status Committee; and
 - f) Club Licensing Appeals Body.
- 45.2 The Club Licensing Committee will operate as the first instance body and decide whether a national AIFF and/or AFC license should be granted or not to an applicant under the Indian Club Licensing Regulations. In the case of a License refusal by the Club Licensing Committee, the decision must be put in writing and include the reasoning.
- 45.3 The Club Licensing Committee shall consist of 5 (five) members with a quorum of at least 3 (three) members. Each quorum must have among its members at least one professionally qualified lawyer and an auditor holding a qualification recognized by the appropriate national professional body among their members.
- 45.4 Members of the Club Licensing Committee shall not belong simultaneously to any other AIFF body or committee and must act impartially in the discharge of their duties.
- 45.5 Members of the Judicial Bodies shall not be members or Office Bearers of any other AIFF body / Standing Committee or members or office-bearers of any Member Association or their Affiliated Units.
- 45.6 The Judicial Bodies shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and other appropriate

members, and shall be appointed as by the General Body on the recommendation received by the Executive Committee from the AIFF.

- 45.7 The Judicial Bodies are to be composed in such a way that the members, together, have the knowledge, abilities and specialist experience that is necessary for the due completion of their tasks. The Judicial Bodies shall have a minimum of 3 (three) members.
- 45.8 Candidates for the Standing Committees and Judicial Bodies must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee.
- 45.9 Candidates for the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee must pass an eligibility check carried out by the AIFF General Secretariat, and the report of the same made available to the Executive Committee.
- 45.10 The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the Judicial Bodies shall have a term of 4 (four) years. The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the Judicial Bodies may be relieved of their duties by the Executive Committee, provided detailed reasons for the same are recorded in writing and subject to ratification of the same by the General Body at the next AGM/SGM.
- 45.11 The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Judicial Bodies may each serve a maximum of 3 (three) terms (whether consecutive or not).
- 45.12 If a chairperson, a deputy chairperson or a member of a Judicial Body resigns or becomes permanently incapacitated with regard to performing his or her functions during the term of office, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement to serve for the remainder of the initial term of office, subject to ratification of the same by the General Body at the next AGM/SGM.
- 45.13 An individual shall be disqualified from being a member of any AIFF Judicial Body or any other committee or body, if he or she satisfies any of the criteria which have been deemed to be a Disqualification Event under this Constitution, or if they are in violation of any of the Conflict of Interest provisions specified in this Constitution, or if they have a direct or indirect Material Business Relation with the AIFF or any associated private or public body.
- 45.14 The processes and proceedings of the AIFF Judicial Bodies shall be facilitated, coordinated and conducted by the AIFF legal, regulatory and governance department without any interference from any internal or external stakeholder.
- 45.15 No individual can be a member of different AIFF Judicial Bodies for more than a total cumulative period of 12 (twelve) years, where up to 8 (eight) years can be spent in 1 (one) Judicial Body.

Article 46: Disciplinary Committee

- 46.1 The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and such number of members deemed necessary, subject to the minimum number of members stated above. The Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee shall be law graduates with minimum 10 years of practice before any Court or Tribunal. At least 3 (three) members (other than Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson) of the Disciplinary Committee shall also be law graduates.

- 46.2 The responsibilities and function of the Disciplinary Committee shall be stipulated in the AIFF Disciplinary Code. The Committee shall pass decisions only when at least 3 (three) members are present. In certain cases, the Chairperson may rule alone, under the circumstances provided for in the AIFF Disciplinary Code.
- 46.3 The AIFF shall bear all travel and logistical costs of convening meetings, and shall make endeavours to pay a suitable honorarium to the members, even if the same is a token amount, in lieu of their services.
- 46.4 The Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in this Constitution and the AIFF Disciplinary Code, on natural and legal persons as defined in Article 3 of the AIFF Disciplinary Code.

Article 47: Appeal Committee

- 47.1 The Appeal Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and the number of members deemed necessary, subject to the minimum number of members stated above. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall be law graduates with minimum 10 years of practice before any Court or Tribunal. At least 3 (three) members (other than Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson) of the Appeal Committee shall also be law graduates. It is made clear that due to its function as an adjudicatory dispute resolution body, no Office-Bearers, Members, Employees and any other person covered by the conflict-of-interest provisions of this Constitution in relation to the same shall be permitted to be included in the Appeal Committee. The AIFF shall ensure that only independent, impartial and duly qualified individuals form part of this Committee.
- 47.2 The function of this body shall be governed by the AIFF Disciplinary Code, the AIFF Code of Ethics and the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. This Committee shall pass decisions only when at least 3 (three) members are present. In certain cases, the Chairperson may rule alone.
- 47.3 The Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee and the Player Status Committee that are not declared final as per the relevant AIFF regulations.
- 47.4 Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee shall be binding on all the parties concerned. This provision is subject to the process for dispute resolution and arbitration as listed in this Constitution.

Article 48: Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee

- 48.1 The function of the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee shall be governed by this Constitution and the AIFF Code of Ethics. It shall pass decisions if at least 3 (three) members are present. The chairperson may pass decisions alone in specific cases as specified in the Code of Ethics.
- 48.2 The Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee shall consist of a chairperson, deputy chairperson and such number of members as permissible under Article 45.7, subject to the minimum number of members stated above. The chairperson and deputy chairperson shall be either a retired judge of the rank of District Judge or above, or any retired All India Service officer. At least 3 (three)

members (other than Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson) of the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee shall also be law graduates or have experience in law enforcement. It is made clear that due to its function as an adjudicatory dispute resolution body, no Office-Bearers, Members, Employees and any other person covered by the conflict-of-interest provisions of this Constitution in relation to the same shall be permitted to be included in the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee. The AIFF shall ensure that only independent, impartial and duly qualified individuals form part of this Committee.

- 48.3 The Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee will pass necessary orders in cases falling in its jurisdiction and may pronounce the sanctions described in this Constitution, the AIFF Code of Ethics and the AIFF Disciplinary Code on various stakeholders including Members, Affiliated Units, Competitions, Clubs, Officials, Players, Intermediaries and Licensed Match Agents.
- 48.4 The Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee shall have an investigatory as well as an adjudicatory function. The investigatory function shall be carried out in terms of the provisions of Article 48.7 below.
- 48.5 The Executive Committee shall issue the AIFF Code of Ethics.
- 48.6 The Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Committee for approval.
- 48.7 The duties of the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee shall include conducting the eligibility checks in respect of candidates and incumbent members of the various Judicial Bodies, Standing Committees and the Executive Committee of the AIFF, in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations for election or appointment as prescribed herein. It shall conduct the independent reviews in respect of candidates and incumbent members of the above Committees to ensure compliance with the appropriate criteria in accordance with the AIFF Constitution and/or Regulations. This duty of the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee shall come into force after the first election due as per this Constitution.

Article 49: Players' Status Committee

- 49.1 The Players' Status Committee shall monitor compliance with the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and determine the status of Players for Competitions. Its powers and jurisdiction are governed by the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 49.2 It shall pass decisions if at least 3 (three) members are present. The chairperson may pass decisions alone in specific cases if and as specified in the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 49.3 The Player Status Committee shall consist of a chairperson, deputy chairperson and such number of members as permissible under Article 45.7, subject to the minimum number of members stated above. The chairperson and deputy chairperson shall be law graduates with minimum 10 years of practice before any Court or Tribunal.

Article 50: Club Licensing Appeals Body

- 50.1 The responsibilities and function of Club Licensing Appeals Body shall be stipulated in the Indian

Club Licensing Regulations.

- 50.2 The Club Licensing Appeals Body will only review decisions made by the Club Licensing Committee and will not rehear the case or review new evidence that has not been submitted before the submission deadline. Appeals for such review of decisions may only be lodged by:
- a) a licence applicant who received a refusal from the Club Licensing Committee;
 - b) a licensee whose licence has been withdrawn by the Club Licensing Committee; or
 - c) a licensing manager on behalf of the licensor.
- 50.3 The Club Licensing Appeals Body has the power to make a final binding decision on whether a license should be issued or not and what sanctions, if any, should be imposed on the license applicant.
- 50.4 The Club Licensing Appeals Body has the power to review all decisions of the Club Licensing Committee and to affirm, reject, vary or replace decisions and/or sanctions issued by the Club Licensing Committee. The Club Licensing Appeals Body is the body of last instance and its decision is final in relation to grant of licenses under the Indian Club Licensing Regulations.
- 50.5 The Club Licensing Appeals Body will not have the authority to define the makeup of the divisions of the national Club competitions.

CHAPTER VI: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Article 51: Disputes Resolution and Grievance Redressal

- 51.1 Any and all disputes affecting or involving the AIFF, Full, Associate or Provisional Members, including the individual members thereof, Clubs or their members, Leagues or other Competitions, and members of such Leagues, Officials, Referees and Licensed Match Agents shall be referred by the AIFF in the first instance for hearing and redressal to the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee.
- 51.2 Disputes with respect to Players and Intermediaries shall be referred by the AIFF in the first instance for hearing and redressal to the Players' Status Committee, which shall function in accordance with Article 49 of this Constitution.
- 51.3 Any instance of Conflict of Interest as defined in Article 73 may be taken cognizance of by the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee:
- g) Suo Motu;
 - h) By way of a complaint in writing to the official postal or email address of the Ethics and Integrity Officer; or
 - i) On a reference by the General Body.
- 51.4 After considering the relevant factors and following the principles of natural justice, the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee may either discharge the person or do all or any of the follow
- (i) declare the conflict as tractable and
 - (a) direct the person to declare the Conflict of Interest as specified in this Constitution; or
 - (b) direct that the interest that causes the conflict be relinquished; or

- (c) direct the person to recuse from discharging the obligation or duty so vested in her.
- (ii) declare the conflict as intractable and direct that:
 - (a) the person be suspended or removed from his or her post; and / or
 - (b) any suitable monetary or other penalty be imposed; and/or
 - (c) the person be barred for a specified period or for life from involvement with Football.
- 51.5 The Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee is wholly empowered to also direct any additional measures or restitution as is deemed fit in the circumstances.
- 51.6 In addition to the above, any dispute arising on account of claims by two different executive/managing committees or sets of individuals claiming to be the duly elected committee representing the Member Association in a State, or of two different groups claiming to constitute the official Member Association of a State, such dispute shall be referred by the AIFF in the first instance for hearing and redressal by the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee.
- 51.7 Till such time as the dispute is resolved, the AIFF Executive Committee, on the basis of the initial written recommendation of the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee has the right to derecognize/de-affiliate one or both of the committees or groups as well as that Member Association, provided that reasons for the same are duly recorded.
- 51.8 While the dispute is pending if there is no settlement reached between the parties, or if the resolution of the matter is delayed to the point it negatively impacts the growth and development of Football in the concerned state, the President shall recommend to the Executive Committee to appoint an ad hoc committee to oversee the footballing affairs of the concerned Member Association, for a period not exceeding 6 (six) months.
- 51.9 While appointing the ad hoc committee, the Executive Committee may consider including all or any of the following - an Eminent Player, preferably from the state in question, an advocate and a chartered accountant. All the members appointed to any such committee are required to be in compliance with the Conflict of Interest provisions specified in this Constitution and also not satisfy any of the criteria which has been deemed to be a Disqualification Event under this Constitution.
- 51.10 The committee will oversee the functioning of the footballing activities of the concerned Member Association for a maximum period of 6 (six months), within which time the new highest decision making body of that Member Association is required to be elected.
- 51.11 Till the time the new body is elected, the committee will select and field any and all teams to represent that particular Member Association in Competitions and shall generally manage the sporting affairs of that Member Association.
- 51.12 In the second instance appeals from the decision of the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee and the Players' Status Committee shall lie before the Appeal Committee as provided in Article 47. Any aggrieved party may lodge such an appeal within 10 days of receipt of a speaking order by the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee and the Appeals Committee shall decide the same expeditiously.
- 51.13 Any party aggrieved by the internal dispute resolution mechanism outlined herein, culminating with the decision of a Appeals Committee, may refer the same for adjudication through arbitration before an 'Arbitral Tribunal' created as detailed below. The provisions of the Arbitration and

Conciliation Act, 1996, as amended from time to time, shall apply to the conduct of such arbitration proceedings.

- 51.14 The composition of the Arbitral Tribunal shall be 3 (three) arbitrators consisting of persons of eminence and conversant with adjudicatory proceedings, one of which shall be nominated by AIFF, one by the other party, and the third member is to be mutually decided by the two arbitrators, who is required to be a retired judge of any High Court.
- 51.15 The Arbitral Tribunal shall make best efforts, if possible, to conclude the proceeding in summary process at the earliest within 3 (three) months from reference being so made. The conclusive award of the Tribunal shall be final and binding on all the parties including the AIFF. The seat and the venue of the Tribunal shall be at New Delhi and appropriate jurisdictional Court, namely the Delhi High Court, would have exclusive jurisdiction to entertain any proceeding as per the applicable provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996, as amended from time to time.
- 51.16 The AIFF shall incorporate arbitration as the sole dispute resolution mechanism as laid down in Articles 51.12, 51.13 and 51.14 in all agreements/contracts entered into with third parties.

Article 52: Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

- 52.1 The AIFF recognizes the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS) with headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland), subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

Article 53: Obligations Relating to Dispute Resolution

- 53.1 The Members and their Affiliated Units, Clubs, Leagues, and all other natural or legal persons affiliated to them agree to recognize the jurisdiction of the AIFF Judicial Bodies and the AIFF judicial process as detailed in this Constitution.
- 53.2 The Members and their Affiliated Units, Clubs, Leagues, and all other natural or legal persons affiliated to them, agree to recognize the jurisdiction of CAS, subject to the other provisions of this Constitution. The same obligation shall apply to Licensed Match Agents and Intermediaries.
- 55.3 Members and their Affiliated Units shall comply fully with any decisions passed by AIFF, AFC, FIFA and their relevant bodies, which, according to the statutes and relevant regulations are final and not appealable.
- 53.4 In case AIFF is made party to any dispute, the jurisdiction will be of the competent courts in Delhi.

CHAPTER VII: MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Article 54: Administration

- 54.1 The AIFF General Secretariat, head office of which is located in Delhi, shall carry out all the administrative work of the AIFF under the direction of the General Secretary.

- 54.2 The day-to-day management of the AIFF shall be conducted by professionals in both sporting and non- sporting matters.
- 54.3 The day-to-day management of the AIFF including operations, technical, human resources, finance and media shall be conducted by the General Secretary under the supervision of the Executive Committee.
- 54.4 Individuals and organisations offering professional services to the AIFF shall be appointed in a fair and transparent manner, and may be changed from time to time, as the AIFF may deem expedient, with reasons for such changes to be recorded in writing.
- 54.5 All employees of the General Secretariat, including the General Secretary who shall be an employee, shall attain superannuation at the age of 60 (sixty years) and shall cease to be an AIFF employee from such date.

Article 55: General Secretary

- 55.1 The General Secretary is the chief salaried administrator of AIFF, engaged as an employee on a fulltime basis, appointed on the basis of a legally valid agreement.
- 55.2 The General Secretary shall be required to fulfil an eligibility check performed by the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee prior to his appointment to the position.
- 55.3 The eligibility criteria for the General Secretary shall be laid down by the Executive Committee keeping in mind the following guidelines:
- a) Knowledge and familiarity with Football and/or other sports;
 - b) Understanding of financial position and fiscal direction of the AIFF;
 - c) Knowledge of operations of Football and/or sports administration and overall policy;
 - d) Clarity on role, division of responsibilities and hierarchy; and
 - e) Familiarity with regulatory and legal responsibilities as well as attendant risks.

There shall be an appropriate induction process laid down by the Executive Committee for the General Secretary, which shall include a fair and transparent process of appointment.

- 55.4 His or her main responsibilities shall be:
- a) Overseeing the functioning of the AIFF and implementing policies and decisions passed by the General Body and Executive Committee under the overall direction of the President and in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
 - b) Managing and keeping the accounts of AIFF properly and preparing the financial statements.
 - c) Prepare the draft budget and place the draft budget before the Finance Committee.
 - d) Recording, compiling, circulating and maintaining the minutes for the meetings of the General Body (AGM and SGM), Executive Committee and Standing Committees and other committees as well as maintenance of the statutory and other records of AIFF.
 - e) Supervising AIFF's correspondence.
 - f) Relations with the Members and Committees.
 - g) Organizing the General Secretariat.
 - h) The appointment and discipline of AIFF staff and fixing and revising their remuneration as required from time to time.

- i) The General Secretary shall, upon the instructions of the President or the General Body or the Executive Committee, as the case may be, convene meetings of the General Body and the Executive Committee and any other committee or sub-committee as may be formed.
 - j) The General Secretary shall receive all monies on behalf of the Treasurer if the treasurer is absent.
 - k) The Secretary shall perform such other acts as are delegated to him by the General Body and/or the Executive Committee under this Constitution and the rules and Regulations of AIFF.
- 55.4 The General Secretary shall appoint the AIFF managerial staff on the approval of the Executive Committee.
- 55.5 The General Secretary shall not be employed for longer than a period of 12 (twelve) years.

CHAPTER VIII: FINANCE

Article 56: Treasurer

- 56.1 The duties and functions of the Treasurer are:
- a) To be an ex officio member of the Audit Committee and also the Finance Committee.
 - b) To advise the General Secretariat on preparation of the draft budget and financials.
 - c) To advise AIFF on its strategy in financial and asset management matters.
 - d) The Treasurer shall maintain and keep accounts of all monies received and expended by the AIFF, in respect of assets, credits and liabilities of the AIFF, issue receipts, pay all bills duly certified by the Office-Bearer(s) and authorized as expenses in the budget passed by the General Body.
 - e) The Treasurer shall operate jointly with the President and / or the General Secretary an account in a bank duly approved by the Executive Committee, submit such statements of account as may be called from him, present an audited statement of accounts and budget for the year and do all acts necessary for the due performance of his duties under this Constitution.
 - f) The Treasurer shall be responsible for ensuring that the records and accounts of AIFF will be accessible to the Government of India and are produced as and when requisitioned in writing by any Ministry of the Government of India.
 - g) The Treasurer shall receive all subscriptions and donations and the monies payable and / or receivable by the AIFF.
 - h) The Treasurer shall prepare statement of accounts. The Treasurer shall place before the Executive Committee the Annual Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts of the AIFF and Annual Budget. The Treasurer shall place before the Annual General Meeting duly audited Annual Balance Sheet; and Statement of Accounts of the AIFF;
 - i) The Treasurer shall invest and/or disburse the funds of the AIFF, to withdraw any or all of the existing fixed deposits before the date of maturity in accordance with any general or special directions of the General Body or the Executive Committee.
 - j) The Treasurer shall prepare budgets to be presented at the AGM, SGM and meetings of the Executive Committee.
 - k) The Treasurer shall coordinate with the auditor to obtain insight into the utilization of funds by the Full Members/ Associate Members, if applicable.
- 56.2 The Treasurer may depute any or all of the functions above to the Chief Financial Officer/ Director of Finance, as the case may be.

Article 57: Revenue and Expenses

- 57.1 The revenue and expenses of AIFF shall be responsibly managed, including where appropriate the creation of reserves.
- 57.2 The Treasurer is responsible for drawing up the annual accounts of AIFF for each Financial Year.
- 57.3 The funds of the AIFF shall be invested in the modes specified under the provisions of relevant provisions of the Income Tax Act 1961.
- 57.4 The Federation formed shall be irrevocable and the benefits of the AIFF shall be opened to all, irrespective of caste/creed/ religion. The funds and income of the AIFF shall be solely utilized for the achievements of its object and no portion of it shall be utilized for payment to Executive Committee/ General Body Members by way of profit, interest and/or dividend.

Article 58: Financial Year and Audits

- 58.1 The Financial Year of AIFF shall be from April 01 of a year to March 31 of the following year.
- 58.2 The funds received on behalf of AIFF shall be deposited in bank accounts as approved by the Finance Committee and General Body. The banking account shall be operated by the joint signatures of the President / General Secretary with the Treasurer.
- 58.3 The President and the General Secretary shall be authorized to incur expenditure within the limits of the budget sanctioned at the Annual General Meeting of the General Body.
- 58.4 No expenditure in excess of or not included in the budget, passed at the Annual General Meeting, shall be incurred excepting after the approval of the President. Provided that such excess expenditure shall be reported to the General Body at its next meeting for securing approval or necessary action.
- 58.5 Mercantile system of accounting shall be adopted to maintain the financial accounts of the AIFF.
- 58.6 The accounts of the AIFF shall be maintained in a proper manner after completion of the Financial Year with an annual report covering silent feature of their activities during the year.
- 58.7 The accounts of the AIFF shall be audited annually by Auditors who shall be registered Chartered Accountants, and shall be uploaded to the AIFF website for accessibility.

Article 59: Auditors

- 59.1 The Auditors are required to be on the panel of auditors of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, and shall be appointed by the General Body for such period and on such remuneration, as it may deem fit.
- 59.2 The statutory (independent) auditors shall audit the financial statements approved by the Audit Committee and present their report to the Members at the subsequent AGM held after the conclusion of any given Financial Year. If for any reason the statutory auditors resign in between two AGMs, the Audit Committee shall appoint new auditors to conduct the audit for that Financial

Year. New statutory auditors shall be appointed by the General Body at the next AGM.

- 59.3 The AIFF may appoint internal auditors. The internal auditors shall submit quarterly statements to the Audit Committee. The internal auditors shall be appointed by the Audit Committee for such period and such terms, as it may deem fit.

Article 60: Membership Subscriptions

- 60.1 Membership subscriptions are due on 1st January of every year. The annual subscription for new Members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 (thirty) days of the close of the General Body at which they were admitted.
- 60.2 The General Body shall fix the amount of the annual subscription every 4 (four) years on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. It shall be the same for every Full and Provisional Member and will not be less than Rs. 20,000 (Indian Rupees Twenty Thousand) and for Associate Members it will not be less than Rs. 2,00,000 (Indian Rupees Two Lakh).
- 60.3 The member subscription for any new person or legal entity wanting to join the AIFF as an Associate Member will be fixed at Rs. 5,00,000 (Indian Rupees Five Lakhs) as a single lumpsum payment.

Article 61: Settlement

- 61.1 AIFF may debit any Member's account to settle claims.

Article 62: Levies

- 62.1 For Competitions owned / organized / sanctioned by a Member and played between Affiliated Units or state teams belonging to two or more Members, a levy will have to be paid to AIFF and shall be payable by the Member under whose jurisdiction the match is being played. The levy shall be as decided by the Executive Committee, according to the categories of Competitions, and will not be less than Rs. 25,000 (Indian Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand). The categories of Competitions will be decided by the Executive Committee.
- 62.2 For Competitions owned / organized / sanctioned by a Member involving one or more foreign teams the AIFF levies shall be as decided by the Executive Committee and will not be less than Rs. 1,00,000 (Indian Rupees One Lakhs). The Member organising such Competitions would also have to necessarily pay levies of the FIFA/AFC as per their rules/regulations and guidelines relating to such international matches.
- 62.3 For Competitions owned / organized / sanctioned by AIFF and hosted by Members and played between state teams belonging to two or more Members, a levy will have to be paid to AIFF and shall be payable by the Member under whose jurisdiction the match is being played. The levy shall be as decided by the Executive Committee, according to the categories of Competitions, and will not be less than Rs. 25,000 (Indian Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand).
- 62.4 There will be no levies for tournaments organized for teams consisting solely of players below 16 (sixteen) years of age.

CHAPTER IX. RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

Article 63: Rights and Authorisations

- 63.1 The AIFF is the original owner of all of the rights emanating from Competitions, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law, and shall retain these rights under all circumstances. These rights include, among others, every kind of commercial rights, financial rights, audio visual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights.
- 63.2 The AIFF is exclusively responsible for authorizing the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of Competitions owned by the AIFF.
- 63.3 The AIFF shall have the inalienable right, discretion and authority over all decision-making pertaining to creation, management, direction, control, regulation, promotion, development and sponsorship of any League or Competition. Without prejudice to the foregoing, the AIFF shall have the inalienable right and discretion to take all decisions of any nature pertaining to any aspect of any competition. While exercising such discretion, the AIFF shall have due regard to the interests of the sport of Football in India and shall not be bound by any request / demand of any third party in this regard.
- 63.4 Subject to, and without prejudice to the provisions of this Article, the General Body shall decide how and to what extent these rights are to be utilized and may draw up regulations to this end. The General Body shall alone decide whether these rights shall be utilized exclusively, or jointly with a third party provided that no Agreement entered into by the AIFF or a Member with a third party shall take away, abridge or in any like or other manner adversely affect the control and discretion of the AIFF over any essential aspect of any competition, including as to selection, schedule, structure, format or rules, of any League or Competition.

CHAPTER X. COMPETITIONS

Article 64: Venue

- 64.1 The Executive Committee shall decide the venue for the Competitions owned / organized by AIFF. A Competition (other than that involving Clubs) shall not be held in the same State on two successive occasions. The Executive Committee may issue regulations in this regard.

Article 65: AIFF Calendar and Domestic Tournament Schedule

- 65.1 The Executive Committee shall approve a comprehensive annual calendar for the whole Season compiled by the General Secretariat which shall thereafter be circulated and shall *inter alia* include the Competitions owned / organized by the AIFF, organized under the aegis of the AIFF and shall be binding upon the Member Associations and their Affiliated Units. This calendar will also include the AIFF's obligations in relation to the FIFA and AFC dates and competitions. This shall be done prior to the beginning of a Season, identifying clearly the organizers at each level and costs involved. The associations organizing the tournaments should take care to make good arrangements for the boarding and lodging of Players so that the Players are able to perform in a congenial environment.

- 65.2 The AIFF is also mindful that it is important to revive old, eminent tournaments, and shall take appropriate steps and reach out to relevant stakeholders in this regard.

Article 66: Inter State Competitions

- 66.1 The Executive Committee shall approve regulations for organizing Competitions between Member Associations or between Affiliated Units of Member Association(s).
- 66.2 No such Competition shall take without the prior authorization of the AIFF. Such authorisation shall be provided upon the Member Associations' use of the AIFF Systems as per this Constitution.

Article 67: Intra State Competitions

- 67.1 Competitions organized by the Affiliated Units of any Member Association will have to be sanctioned by the concerned Member Association. Due records of such Competitions shall be maintained by the concerned Member Association and filed in the AIFF Systems as per this Constitution.

Article 68: International Competitions

- 68.1 Competitions involving one or more teams from outside India shall not be played without the authorization of AIFF. Authorization, notification and other requirements for organising such Competitions shall be governed by the relevant regulations governing international friendly matches/ competitions and compliance of these regulations is mandatory.

Article 69: Contacts

- 69.1 Players and teams affiliated to Members of the AIFF shall not play matches or make sporting contacts with players or teams that are not affiliated to Members of AIFF, without the approval of AIFF.
- 69.2 Only Players who are registered in accordance with the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players can play in a Competition.
- 69.3 Any associations, Leagues or Clubs registered with a certain Member Association may shift such registration to another Member Association only under exceptional circumstances and with the prior written approval of both Member Associations and the AIFF. In case of any dispute relating to the same, the AIFF, through the appropriate body, shall examine the matter through due process and thereafter either provide or withhold its permission to shift such registration between two Member Associations.

Article 70: Approval

- 70.1 No Member Association or its Affiliated Unit shall participate in competitions and exhibition matches on the territory of another Member Association without the consent of both the Member

Associations and authorization of AIFF.

- 70.2 International Matches shall be subject to authorization of FIFA and/or AFC and AIFF, as applicable. Matches involving teams from another country are subject to the Regulations Governing International matches / competitions and authorization of FIFA, AFC & AIFF as well as the Sports Code.

CHAPTER XI. TRANSPARENCY & CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Article 71 Transparency

- 71.1 The AIFF Constitution, Regulations, details of Members and Office-Bearers and all other resolutions, orders and memoranda of the AIFF shall be freely available to the general public forthwith through digital means including on the website of the AIFF, and at a reasonable price in print. These shall include:

- a) All documents required under the National Sports Code.
- b) The details of the Members and their representatives and office-bearers.
- c) The composition of the various Committees, their reports of work done and/or issues/matters handled, financial outlay and expenditure shall be uploaded on the Website of the AIFF on a quarterly basis at distinct links dedicated to each Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the General Secretary to ensure that this is done.
- d) All proceedings and conclusions of the Electoral Officer.
- e) The audited accounts, balance sheets, profit & loss accounts and annual reports, as well as the financial and compliance reports of the auditor shall be placed and uploaded on the website of the AIFF annually.
- f) All notices on behalf of the AIFF including notices for recruitment of individuals as well as invitation for tenders for providing goods and services, for contractual arrangements and the like.
- g) Complete details of teams and delegations representing India abroad in sporting matters, conferences and seminars, including full names of members of all national teams in all age groups.
- h) Relevant papers pertaining to the AGM of the General Body circulated to all members along with the notice calling for the AGM, the agenda, Explanatory Statements if any, all papers pertaining to any General Body meeting circulated to all members as well as Minutes of all Meetings.
- i) All payments and expenditures made by the AIFF which is in excess of Rs. 25,00,000 (Indian Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs) shall be enumerated and uploaded on the website.
- j) All proceedings and conclusions of the AIFF Judicial Bodies shall be uploaded on the Website of the AIFF forthwith.
- k) All previous versions of the AIFF Constitution.

- 71.2 It is separately and additionally specified that that all proceedings for any and all AIFF Committees, including election proceedings and proceedings of AIFF Judicial Bodies, are to be duly recorded and preserved securely in an unedited form on video by the AIFF Secretariat.

- 71.3 All processes for recruitment of individuals as well as engagement of contractors and/or service providers is to be done through a transparent and open tendering process, with notices for the same duly being posted on the AIFF website at least 15 (fifteen) days before the deadline dates.

Article 72: Independence

72.1 The independence criteria of persons involved with the AIFC shall be as follows:

	Members (individuals) of pre-existing or new Standing Committees or task forces	Chairperson and deputy chairperson of Judicial Bodies	Other members of Judicial Bodies
Other official function in AIFC	Not permitted for members themselves and their Immediate Family Member including the four years preceding initial term	Not permitted for individuals and their Immediate Family Members including the four years preceding initial term	Not permitted for members themselves and their Immediate Family Members including the four years preceding initial term
Other official function / designation in Members and their Affiliated Units	Not permitted for members themselves and their Immediate Family Members including the four years preceding initial term	Not permitted for individuals and their Immediate Family Members including the four years preceding initial term	Not permitted for members themselves and their Immediate Family Members including the four years preceding initial term
Material business relationship with AIFC or a Member of AIFC or an Affiliated Unit	Not permitted for members their organisations and their Immediate Family Members including the four years preceding initial term	Not permitted for individuals and their Immediate Family Members including the four years preceding initial term	Not permitted for members themselves and their Immediate Family Members including the four years preceding initial term

72.2 Additional provisions shall apply to members of the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee, if and as notified from time to time.

72.3 An Office-Bearer of the AIFC or a member of any of the committees of AIFC, or any of their family members, who has held such post in the past 2 (two) years, cannot hold a professional contract or be employed by the AIFC and/or have any Material Business Relationship with the AIFC in any form.

Article 73: Conflict of Interest

73.1 A Conflict of Interest may take any of the following forms as far as any individual associated with the AIFC is concerned:

- a. Direct or Indirect Interest: When the AIFC or a Member or an Affiliated Unit enter into contractual arrangements with entities in which an individual concerned or his/her relative, partner or close associate has an interest. This includes cases where family members, partners or close associates are in positions that compromise, or may be seen to compromise an

individual's participation, performance and discharge of roles.

- b. Roles compromised: When the individual holds two separate or distinct posts or positions under the AIFF, a Member, an Affiliated Unit or any League team, the functions of which would require the one to be beholden to the other, or in opposition thereof.
- c. Commercial conflicts: When the individual enters into endorsement contracts or other professional engagements with third parties, the discharge of which would compromise the individual's primary obligation to the game or allow for a perception that the purity of the game stands compromised.
- d. Prior relationship: When an individual has a direct or indirect independent commercial engagement with a vendor or service provider or commercial partner or broadcast partner or sponsor in the past, which is now to be engaged by or on behalf of the AIFF or its Member.
- e. Position of influence: When the individual occupies a post that calls for decisions of governance, management or selection to be made, and where a friend, relative or close affiliate is in the zone of consideration or subject to such decision-making, control or management. Also, when the individual holds any stake, voting rights or power to influence the decisions of a Club / team that participates in any League(s) under AIFF.

73.2 In addition to the above, a Conflict of Interest may arise when any individual or entity associated with the AIFF has a direct or indirect interest with discharge of roles, is apprehended to be in a position which might lead to a compromise, where there is a prior relationship or the propensity of undue influence.

73.3 Within a period of 15 (fifteen) days of taking any office under the AIFF, every individual shall disclose in writing to the Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee any existing or potential event that may be deemed to cause a Conflict of Interest and the same shall be uploaded on the website of the AIFF. The failure to issue a complete disclosure, or any partial or total suppression thereof would render the individual open to disciplinary action which may include termination and removal from membership or position without benefits. It is clarified that a declaration does not lead to a presumption that in fact a questionable situation exists, but is merely for information and transparency.

73.4 A Conflict of Interest may be either Tractable or Intractable:

- a) Tractable conflicts are those that are resolvable or permissible or excusable through recusal of the individual concerned and/or with full disclosure of the interest involved.
- b) Intractable conflicts are those that cannot be resolved through disclosure and recusal, and would necessitate the removal of the individual from a post or position occupied so that the conflict can cease to exist.

73.5 It is clarified that no individual may occupy more than one of the following posts and/or be a part of more than one of the following at a single point of time except where prescribed under this Constitution:

- a) Player (Current)
- b) Team Official
- c) Match Official
- d) Office-Bearer

- e) Electoral Officer
- f) Ethics and Disputes Resolution Committee
- g) Auditor
- h) Any person who is in governance, management or employment of a Club
- i) Member of a Standing Committee
- j) Office Bearer of a Member
- k) Service Provider (Legal, Financial, etc.)
- l) Contractual entity (Broadcast partner, Commercial Partner, Sponsor, Security, Contractor, etc.)
- m) Owner of an academy/Club

73.6 As far as incumbents are concerned, every disclosure mandated under Article 73.3 above, shall be made within 90 (ninety) days of the Effective Date.

CHAPTER XII. ELECTIONS

Article 74: Elections

74.1 The procedure for elections shall be governed by the AIFF Election Rules that are prescribed in Schedule III to this Constitution. Any amendments to the procedure adopted shall be made at least 3 (three) months prior to the elections.

CHAPTER XIII. DEVELOPMENT PROVISIONS

Article 75: Selection Procedure

75.1 AIFF shall ensure a judicious and transparent process of selection of national teams for participation in major international events based solely on merit and with the objective of maximizing sports development and success for Indian players and teams.

Article 76: Long Terms Development Plans

76.1 AIFF shall prepare detailed Long-Term Development Plans, based on a 4 (four) years cycle on the lines of the Sports Code.

76.2 These plans shall cover all aspects of the sports, and will incorporate detailed plans covering the following specific aspects:

- a) Development of Sportsperson
- b) Coaching
- c) Officiating
- d) Participation and Broadbasing
- e) Development of Clubs
- f) Domestic Tournament Schedule
- g) Participation in International Tournaments
- h) Hosting of major events
- i) Professionalization of Management
- j) Financial Management

- k) Marketing and Promotion
- l) Sports sciences
- m) Facilities and equipment
- n) Special Projects

76.3 In formulating the development plan, AIFF shall also give due consideration to the following issues:

- a) Democratic and healthy management practices, which provide for greater accountability and transparency at all levels.
- b) Proper accounting procedures at all levels.
- c) Proper functioning of affiliated units.
- d) Measures for the protection of Players' interests, both during their playing careers and thereafter.
- e) Introduction of an impartial machinery for the redressal of Player's grievances
- f) Organization of tournaments at all levels.
- g) Measures to broad base and popularize Football, especially through the establishment of Clubs, the organization of local tournaments, and the creation of infrastructure and introduction of transparent selection procedures at all levels.

76.4 AIFF shall seek to evolve a system by which Players on the verge of retirement may opt for any specialized training required to become coaches, Referees, technical officials etc. as the case maybe. Financial assistance to assist in this programme may be requested from the Government of India.

Article 77: Future Regulations

77.1 AIFF shall draft and implement detailed regulations on the following, and till such time, shall follow the corresponding regulations specified in the Sports Code, the World Anti-Doping Regulations, FIFA Statutes and relevant FIFA regulations:

- a) Management of records and information
- b) Age fraud
- c) Prevention of sexual harassment
- d) Dope testing procedures
- e) Participation and eligibility norms for OCI card holders and persons not holding Indian citizenship
- f) Provisions governing people accompanying teams, including abroad

CHAPTER XIV. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 78: Unforeseen Contingencies and Force Majeure

78.1 The General Body shall have the final decision on any matters not provided for in this Constitution and Regulations, or in cases of force majeure. General Body shall be competent to decide whether a situation amounts to force majeure scenario or not.

Article 79: Investments and Dissolution

- 79.1 AIFF may be dissolved by the General Body at a Meeting specially called for this purpose upon receipt by the General Secretary of a written requisition received by not less than 2/3rd (two-third) of the Members of the General Body. The AIFF may be dissolved by a resolution to that effect passed by not less than 2/3rd of the Members present and eligible to vote. The quorum for this meeting shall be 4/5th of the total number of Members.
- 79.2 Upon dissolution of the AIFF, all its funds and assets remaining as on the date of the dissolution shall under no circumstances be distributed among the Executive Committee, Members etc., but the same shall be entrusted to the appropriate Government authority or to another federation / association whose objects are similar to those of the AIFF.
- 79.3 The AIFF, may, after such dissolution, be revived again by complying with the appropriate government prescribed procedures for re-registering as an entity as mentioned herein, with similar objectives and under the same or a different name, under the applicable laws.

Article 80: Notice

- 80.1 Any notice required to be served on any Member of the AIFF or other entity shall be addressed to their registered addresses.
- 80.2 All notices shall be served by way of electronic mail to the official e-mail addresses as are furnished to the AIFF.
- 80.3 Any notice sent via post or e-mail shall be deemed to have been served at the time when the same was sent, and it shall be sufficient to prove either that the letter containing the notice was properly addressed and posted or that the email was sent to the correct email address.

Article 81: Indemnity

- 81.1 Every Office Bearer, employee, consultant or individual member of any of the Standing Committees or Judicial Bodies of AIFF shall be indemnified out of the AIFF's funds against all losses and expenses incurred in the legitimate and bona fide discharge of his or her duties, except those which have occurred through wilful act or default and if so, each one shall be chargeable only for so much monies or property as they shall actually receive for or in the discharge of the business of the AIFF and shall be answerable only for their own act, neglect or default and not for those of any other person.

Article 82: Legal Status

- 82.1 The income and property as well as the management and control of AIFF shall vest in its General Body.
- 82.2 The income and property of AIFF shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of AIFF as set out in this Constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to any one by way of dividend.

- 82.3 In the event of dissolution of the AIFF, the entire funds of AIFF shall be realized and first used for payment of liabilities of AIFF. The assets left, if any, shall be disbursed, after obtaining prior approval of the Commissioner of Income Tax (Exemption), New Delhi, to any other society having similar objectives and which has been granted registration under Section 12AA of the Income Tax Act, 1961. In no circumstances shall the proceeds be distributed in any manner to any Member of the AIFF, Office Bearer of the AIFF, or their relatives or related concerns.

Article 83: Jurisdiction

- 83.1 AIFF may sue or be sued in the name of the General Secretary. All proceedings shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the court of competent pecuniary jurisdiction in Delhi, and a clause to this effect shall be included in any deed or contract executed by AIFF with any third party.
- 83.2 The AIFF shall have concurrent jurisdiction and control over Players, Match Officials and team Officials within the jurisdiction of a Member. Such individuals participating in Football under the aegis of a Member shall be deemed *ipso facto* to submit to the jurisdiction of the AIFF.

Article 84: Transitory Provision

- 84.1 Once the AIFF Constitution is approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, an emergent Special General Body Meeting may be convened by any 3 Full Members with a notice of 7 days to adopt the AIFF Constitution as approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, and the necessary particulars of time and date of the same will be entered in Article 85. However, in accordance with the order dated 18.05.2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the first Election under this Constitution will be conducted by the Committee of Administrators appointed by the Hon'ble Court.

Article 85: Adoption of Constitution

- 85.1 This Constitution along with its Schedules which form a part of the Constitution, was adopted at the Special General Body Meeting of the All India Football Federation held on *[INSERTDATE]* at *[INSERT PLACE]*. This Constitution supersedes all previous related and relevant texts.

Dated : July __, 2022

Place : New Delhi

For ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

(_____)

[General Body to indicate signing authority by Resolution in the emergent meeting]

SCHEDULE I

AIFF REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF STATUTES

I. APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO AIFF

Article 1: Application for and Procedure for Admission as a Provisional Member

- 1.1 Every application for admission as a Provisional Member of AIFF must be submitted in writing to the General Secretariat of the AIFF, accompanied with the following:
- a) A copy of the applicant's statutes and regulations and a copy of registration with appropriate government authority.;
 - b) A list of its officials, specifying those who are authorized signatories, with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties and the right to represent the Member at the meetings of the General Body;
 - c) A copy of the minutes books of meetings and any other records maintained by the applicant pertaining to its functioning as a Football association, including those relating to election of office bearers and maintenance of accounts.
 - d) A list of affiliated District Associations and Clubs with the applicant state association.
 - e) A declaration to the effect that the applicant agrees to be bound by the core principles for affiliation, laid down in Article 14, existing and future statutes, regulations, orders, decisions and directives of AIFF, AFC and FIFA and their bodies and that it undertakes to ensure that these are respected by its members, affiliated units, Players and officials;
 - f) A declaration to the effect that it recognizes the jurisdiction of AIFF Judicial Bodies, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS);
 - g) A declaration to the effect that it undertakes to organize or participate in only those competitions which have prior authorization / sanction of AIFF; and
 - h) A copy of the minutes of the general body meeting of the applicant in which the resolution to become a member of AIFF was passed.

Article 2: Final Admission as Provisional Member

- 2.1 The Executive Committee shall assess whether the applicant desirous of becoming a Provisional Member fulfils the requirements for admission to AIFF as specified in this Constitution, based on the above-mentioned committee's final report and put forward the same to the General Body, recording the views of the Executive Committee on this matter.
- 2.2 Such recommendation shall be circulated by the Executive Committee to the General Body of AIFF at least 15 (fifteen) days prior to the date of the meeting of the General Body at which voting on the application would be undertaken.
- 2.3 If the requirements have been fulfilled, the General Body of AIFF shall decide at the next AGM, as to whether to admit the applicant or not.

- 2.4 The decision to accord the status of Provisional Member to an applicant association from a State shall be taken by the General Body by a 2/3 majority of members present and voting, provided that a quorum of more than 50% (fifty percent) of the Members of the General Body who are entitled to vote in meetings is satisfied. It shall be open for the Executive Committee to undertake a factual enquiry in this regard and place its written findings and recommendations before the General Body at least 15 (fifteen) days prior to the meeting of the General Body at which this matter is to be discussed. The decision of the General Body shall be final and binding on all applicants.

Article 3: Admission as Full Member

- 3.1 A Provisional Member may apply to become a Full Member after a period of 2 years has been completed as a Provisional Member. Provided that the General Body may, at its discretion, waive or extend the said 2 year provisional membership period while recording the reasons for the same in writing and making the reasons available for access in the public domain.
- 3.2 The provisions of Articles 1 and 2 of this Schedule shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the procedure for application by a Provisional Member to become a Full Member and the procedure for consideration of such application.
- 3.3 The Executive Committee shall recommend to the General Body whether or not to admit a new Full Member.
- 3.4 On the basis of the views and recommendation of the Executive Committee as recorded in writing, the General Body may confirm whether a new Full Member is to be admitted to the AIFF.
- 3.5 The new Association shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted as a Full Member. Its delegates would thereafter be eligible to vote and be elected with immediate effect, as the case may be.
- 3.6 The new Member, if a Full Member or Provisional Member, shall submit a declaration stating:
- a) That its head office is in the State/Union Territory which it represents.
 - b) That all the official matches organized by this (Full) Member will be played within the State/Union Territory which it represents unless otherwise authorized by AIFF.
 - c) That the legal structure/composition of the applicant guarantees that it makes decisions independently, as required by a Member, without any influence, directly or indirectly, of any external entity.

Article 4: Procedure for Admission as Associate Members

- 4.1 Every application for becoming an Associate Member of AIFF must be submitted in writing to the General Secretariat of AIFF in the following manner:
- a) The Application must be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's statutes and

regulations.

- b) A list of its legally elected/appointed and other officials, specifying those who are authorized signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties.
 - c) Enclosing a declaration that it recognizes the jurisdiction of the AIFF Judicial Bodies and the AIFF judicial process as detailed in this Constitution along with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS) as specified in the FIFA, AFC & AIFF Regulations and to resolve any sporting matter provided for under such Regulations through the appropriate prescribed procedure for adjudicating the issue.
 - d) Enclosing a declaration that if at any time, that entity allows an individual to whom a Disqualification Event is applicable or has become applicable, to attain or retain a position as an office-bearer of that entity, then that entity would be liable to face suspension and possibly, expulsion from the AIFF.
 - e) Enclosing a declaration to the effect that it undertakes to organize or participate in only those Competitions which have prior authorization/sanction of AIFF.
 - f) Enclosing a copy of the minutes of such meeting of that entity, in which the resolution/decision to become an Associate Member of AIFF was passed/approved.
- 4.2 The decision for admission of Associate Members shall be taken by the General Body at its next meeting held after receiving any application.
- 4.3 The new Associate Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted as an Associate Member. Its delegates shall not be eligible to vote and be elected as Office-Bearers of the AIFF.

II. Definition, Notification and Registration

Article 5: Inter-State Matches

- 5.1 Inter-state Football matches recognized by AIFF are those between two Full Members of AIFF and
for which each Full Member fields a representative Team.
- 5.2 The terms used to define a match are those that give an appropriate political and geographical description of the territories of the Full Members whose teams are involved in the match and over whose respective District Associations the Full Members have sole control and jurisdiction.

Article 6: Inter-Affiliated Unit Matches

- 6.1 An inter-Affiliated Unit match is a match played between two Affiliated Units. Although the Affiliated Units may belong to different Members of AIFF, such a match shall not be recognized as an inter-state match.
- 6.2 An inter-League match is a match played between teams from two Leagues. Although the Leagues may belong to or be located within the territory of different Members, such a match shall not be recognized as an inter-state Match, subject to the provisions of the above Article.

Article 7: Notification

- 7.1 Every Competition sanctioned/organised by any Member and their Affiliated Units shall be notified to the AIFF General Secretariat by the concerned Member, at least 30 (thirty) days prior to the date of the first match.
- 7.2 Failure to give the above notification within this prescribed period shall incur a fine, as fixed by the Executive Committee, which shall not be less than Rs. 25,000 (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand). Failure to provide any notification whatsoever shall incur a fine, as fixed by the Executive Committee, which shall not be less than Rs. 75,000 (Rupees Seventy Five Thousand). These fines shall be paid to AIFF within 10 (ten) days of receipt of AIFF's communication in this regard. This is in addition to any levies that may be applicable.

Article 8: Report by Member

- 8.1 The general secretary of the Member on whose territory an inter-state Competition or Competition between Affiliated Units of different Members is played, shall, within 48 (forty-eight) hours of the completion of the said Competition, submit on the AIFF Systems, the result of each match, the registration forms of Players and team officials and Match Officials. The match data sheet shall also be submitted immediately after the match on the AIFF Systems.
- 8.2 Failure to submit the above information within 30 (thirty) days of the prescribed period shall incur a fine, as fixed by the Executive Committee, which will not be less than Rs. 1,000 (Rupees One Thousand) per day of delay. Failure to send the above information within 90 (ninety) days shall incur a fine, as fixed by the Executive Committee, which will not be less than Rs. 100,00 (Rupees One Lakh), and further, the Member shall be subject to disciplinary action and any additional fine, as decided by AIFF. These fines are required to be paid to AIFF within 10 (ten) days of receipt of AIFF's decision.

Article 9: Registrations

- 9.1 The available details of every Competition shall be maintained and constantly updated by AIFF and uploaded on to its website.

Article 10: Authorizations

- 10.1 Competitions involving teams of Affiliated Units from different Members or teams representing different Members will not be played without the express authorization of AIFF and the Members concerned.
- 10.2 The request for authorization shall be submitted by the Member on whose territory the Competition is planned, at least 30 (thirty) days prior to the date of the first match.
- 10.3 The request for authorization shall be accompanied by a list of the teams that are planning to take part in the Competition and the Competition regulations drawn up by the organizing body.

- 10.4 If the Competition is played in the territory of a Member without prior permission, the Member in question shall be sanctioned in compliance with the disciplinary regulations of the AIFF.
- 10.5 A Member shall inform AIFF and the concerned Member, as soon as the Member gains knowledge regarding any Competition which has not been sanctioned by AIFF and / or the relevant Member.
- 10.6 Scratch Teams are not permitted to play in any Competition unless authorization has been granted by AIFF and the Member on whose territory the Competition is planned.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME

Article 11: Amendments to the Laws

- 11.1 The AIFF shall notify its Members of any amendments and decisions regarding the Laws of the Game within 1 (one) month of receipt of the same from FIFA.
- 11.2 The Members shall enforce these amendments and decisions no later than 60 (sixty) days after receiving communication in this regard from the AIFF.
- 11.3 Members may also take direct cognizance of, and apply such amendments and decisions as soon as they have been issued by IFAB, notifying AIFF of the same.

IV. MATCH OFFICIALS

Article 12: Nomination

- 12.1 Each Match Official appointed to an inter-state match shall belong to a neutral Member unless otherwise previously agreed by the Members concerned.
- 12.2 The Referees chosen to officiate at an interstate match shall be included in the official AIFF list of active national Referees.

Article 13: Report by Match Officials

- 13.1 The Match Officials, other than assistant referee, of every inter-state match shall send a report within 48 (forty eight) hours of the match both to AIFF and the Member on whose territory the match was played.
- 13.2 This report shall be made on the official form/in the official format as per the AIFF Systems.
- 13.3 The said report shall record all the disciplinary measures taken and the reasons for these measures.

Article 14: Reimbursements

- 14.1 Match Officials at interstate or matches involving Affiliated Units from two different states shall be entitled to daily allowance; and reimbursement of travel expenses.
- 14.2 Executive Committee shall determine the amounts, travel category and number of days due for reimbursement, to which Match Officials are entitled.
- 14.3 The expenses for accommodation incurred by Match Officials for the above matches shall be borne by the organizing Member.

V. FINAL PROVISION**Article 15: Enforcement**

- 15.1 These Regulations were approved at the Special General Body Meeting of the All India Football Federation held on *[INSERT DATE]* at *[INSERT PLACE]* and confirmed and ratified at the Special General Body Meeting held on *[INSERT DATE]* in *[INSERT PLACE]*. These Regulations supersede all previous related and relevant texts.

Dated : July __, 2022

Place : New Delhi

For ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

(_____)

[General Body to indicate signing authority by Resolution in the emergent meeting]

SCHEDULE II

STANDING ORDERS OF THE GENERAL BODY OF AIFF

Article 1: Participation in the General Body Meeting

- 1.1 Each Full Member may be represented at the General Body meeting by 2 (two) delegates, to be selected in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 20.2 & 20.3 of the AIFF Constitution.
- 1.2 Confirmation regarding the attendance of the delegates shall be notified to the AIFF General Secretariat at least 20 (twenty) days before the date of the General Body meeting.
- 1.3 AIFF shall bear the costs of travel and accommodation for the delegates of each Member taking part in any General Body meeting, provided the same are intimated to AIFF as per Article 1.2 above.

Article 2: Chair

- 2.1 The President shall chair the General Body Meeting. If the President is unable to attend, the General Body shall elect a member of the Executive Committee who is present, to chair the General Body Meeting.
- 2.2 The chair shall ensure that the General Body Meeting is conducted in strict compliance with these Standing Orders, open and close the General Body Meeting and debates, and, unless the General Body Meeting decides otherwise, grant delegates permission to speak and conduct all discussions.
- 2.3 The chair shall be responsible for maintaining order during debates. He or she may take the following action against any General Body Meeting participant who disturbs the debates: (i) a call to order, (ii) a reprimand (iii) exclusion from one or more sessions.
- 2.4 If an appeal is made against such action, the General Body Meeting shall decide immediately without debate.

Article 3: Debates

- 3.1 Debates on each item on the agenda shall be preceded by a short report:
 - a) by the chair or a member of the Executive Committee designated for this purpose.
 - b) by a representative of the committee designated by the Executive Committee to give a report.
 - c) by a delegate from the Full Member that requested the item be included in the agenda.
- 3.2 The chair shall then open the debate.

Article 4: Speakers

- 4.1 Permission to speak is granted in the order in which it is requested. A speaker may not start speaking until he has obtained permission to do so.
- 4.2 A speaker may not speak for a second time on the same item until all other delegates who have requested permission to speak have spoken.

Article 5: Proposals

- 5.1 All proposals shall be submitted in writing. Proposals which are not relevant to the subject under discussion shall not be admitted to the debate.
- 5.2 Any amendment shall be drawn up in writing and passed to the chair before being put to the debate.

Article 6: Procedural Motions and Closing of Debates

- 6.1 If a procedural motion is made, discussion on the main question shall be suspended until a vote has been taken on the motion.
- 6.2 If a motion is made to close the discussion, it shall immediately be put to the vote without debate. If the motion is approved, permission to speak shall only be granted to those delegates who have asked to speak before the vote was taken.
- 6.3 The chair shall close the discussion unless the General Body Meeting decides otherwise by a simple majority of those voting.

Article 7: Votes

- 7.1 Voting by secret ballot is prohibited, except for elections and proposed amendments to this Constitution which shall be by secret ballot.
- 7.2 Before each vote, the chair, or the person designated by the chairperson, shall read the text of the proposal aloud and explain the voting procedure (quorum) to the General Body. If an objection is raised, the General Body shall decide immediately.
- 7.3 Votes may be taken by roll call if requested by at least 10 (ten) of the delegates present and entitled to vote.
- 7.4 No-one is compelled to vote.
- 7.5 Proposals shall be put to vote in the order in which they are submitted. If there are more than 2 (two) main proposals, they shall be put to vote in succession and the delegates may not vote for more than one of the proposals.
- 7.6 Alterations to amendments shall be put to vote before the amendments proper, and

amendments before the main proposal.

- 7.7 Proposals without a vote against are regarded as having been passed.
- 7.8 The chair shall check the results of the vote and announce it to the General Body Meeting.
- 7.9 No-one is permitted to speak during the vote and until after the result has been announced.

Article 8: Elections

- 8.1 Elections shall be carried out as per the AIFF Election Rules that are prescribed in Schedule III to this Constitution.

Article 9: Enforcement

- 9.1 These Standing Orders were approved at the Special General Body Meeting of the All India Football Federation held on *[INSERTDATE]* at New Delhi and confirmed and ratified at the Special General Body Meeting held on *[INSERT DATE]* in *[INSERT PLACE]*. These Standing Orders supersede all previous related and relevant texts.

Dated : July __, 2022

Place : New Delhi

For ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

(_____)

[General Body to indicate signing authority by Resolution in the emergent meeting]

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**.

Dated : July __, 2022

Place : New Delhi

For ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

(_____)

[General Body to indicate signing authority by Resolution in the emergent meeting]

**FORM 1
LIST OF VOTERS COMPRISING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE**

S. No	Name of the Full Member	Name of Authorised Representatives	
		Name (Nominated by Executive Committee of a Full Member)	Name (Selected from the Eminent Player's List of the State / UT)

Place: Returning Officer
Date:

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)