

The Iraqi Football Association



STATUTES

2017 Edition

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DEFINITIONS

The terms given below denote the following:

IFA: Iraqi Football Association.

AFC: The Asian Football Confederation.

FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

Association: a football association recognised by and a member of FIFA.

League: an organisation that is subordinate to an Association.

Regional Association: an organisation that is subordinate to an Association.

Confederation: a group of Associations recognised by FIFA and belonging to the same continent (or assimilable geographic area).

Club: a member of an Association (that is a member of FIFA) or of a League recognised by an Association.

Official: every board member, committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other person (except Players) responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in an Association, a League or a Club as well as any other persons obliged to comply with the FIFA Statutes.

Player: a football player registered with an Association.

Congress: the supreme and legislative body of IFA.

Executive Committee: the executive body of IFA.

Member: a legal or natural person that has been admitted into membership of IFA by the Congress.

Association Football: the game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

The IFAB: The International Football Association Board (IFAB).

Ordinary Courts: state courts which hear public and private legal disputes.

Arbitration Tribunal: an independent and duly constituted private court of justice acting instead of an Ordinary Court.

CAS: Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne (Switzerland).

INOC: Iraqi National Olympic Committee.

NB: Terms referring to natural persons include both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

Article 1 Name, headquarters, legal form

¹ IFA is a private organisation of an associative nature, established in compliance with the legislation of Iraq and registered in Baghdad. It is formed for an unlimited period.

² The headquarters are in Baghdad.

³ IFA is a member of FIFA and of AFC.

⁴ The flag of IFA consists of two circles, one red and the internal one includes the name of the IFA, two olive branches and a lion situated in the middle.

⁵ The emblem of IFA consists of two circles, one red and the internal one includes the name of the IFA, two olive branches and a lion situated in the middle.

⁶ The logo of IFA consists of two circles, one red and the internal one includes the name of the IFA, two olive branches and a lion situated in the middle.

⁷ The abbreviation of Iraqi Football Association is IFA.

⁸ The flag, emblem, logo and abbreviation are legally registered in accordance with the Law of Trademarks and Descriptions of Iraq (Law No. 21 of 1957).

Article 2 Objectives

The objectives of IFA are:

- a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of IFA in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
- b) to organise competitions in Association Football in all its forms at national level, by defining precisely, as required, the areas of authority conceded to the various Leagues of which it is composed;
- c) to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
- d) to protect the interests of its Members;
- e) to respect and prevent any infringement of the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, of AFC and of IFA as well as the Laws of the Game, and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members;
- f) to promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as 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, futsal or beach soccer;
- g) to control and supervise all friendly football matches of all forms played throughout the territory of IFA;
 - h) to control and supervise Association Football, futsal and beach soccer at national level and to control and supervise all forms of international football matches played throughout the territory of IFA, in accordance with the relevant Statutes and regulations of FIFA and of the Confederations;
 - i) to manage international sporting relations connected with Association Football in all its forms;
 - j) to host competitions at international and other levels;
 - k) to settle national disputes between and amongst players, officials and members;
 - l) to maintain contact and cooperation with FIFA, AFC and other national associations;
 - m) to disseminate information on FIFA and AFC activities;
 - n) to work on finding new financial sources to support IFA fund through improving marketing sponsorship and TV rights or under any other name provided not contrasting the objectives of the game and FIFA regulations;

Article 3 **Neutrality and non-discrimination**

¹ IFA is neutral in matters of party politics and religion.

² Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, language, religion, political 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 and/or disciplinary measures.

Article 4 **Promoting friendly relations**

¹ IFA shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players and in society for humanitarian objectives.

² Every person and organisation involved in the game of Association Football is obliged to observe the relevant Statutes, regulations and the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.

³ IFA shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between the Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of IFA.

Article 5 **Players**

¹ The status of Players and the provisions for their transfer shall be regulated by the Executive Committee of IFA in accordance with the current FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

² Players shall be registered in accordance with the regulations of IFA.

Article 6 **Laws of the Game**

¹ IFA and each of its Members play Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by The IFAB. Only The IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.

² IFA and each of its Members play futsal and beach soccer in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game. Only FIFA may lay down and alter the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.

Article 7 **Conduct of bodies and Officials**

The bodies and Officials of IFA must observe the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, of AFC and of IFA in their activities.

Article 8 **Official languages**

¹ The official languages of IFA shall be Arabic, Kurdish and English. Official documents and texts shall be written in these languages. In the event of any divergence between the interpretation of texts in different languages, the text written in Arabic shall be regarded as authoritative.

² The official languages at the Congress shall be Arabic, Kurdish and English.

Article 9 Admission, suspension and expulsion

- ¹ The Congress shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.
 - ² Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of IFA in accordance with the statutes of IFA.
 - ³ Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member from its financial obligations towards IFA or other Members of IFA, but leads to the loss of all rights in relation to IFA.
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Article 10 Admission

- ¹ The Members of IFA are:
 - a) Football clubs from the Premier Division (first level) of the Iraqi National League;
 - b) Baghdad Regional First Division (second level) League;
 - c) Kurdistan Regional First Division (second level) League;
 - d) Western Regional First Division (second level) League;
 - e) Middle Euphrates Regional First Division (second level) League;
 - f) Southern Regional First Division (second level) League;
 - g) Regional Associations;
 - h) Iraqi National Women Football League;
 - i) The Players' association;
 - j) The Referees' association;
 - k) The Coaches' association;
- ² Any legal or natural person wishing to become a Member of IFA shall apply in writing to the general secretariat of IFA.
- ³ The application must be accompanied by the following mandatory items:
 - a) a copy of its legally valid statutes and regulations;
 - b) a declaration that it will always comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of IFA, FIFA and AFC and ensure that these are also respected by its own members, clubs, officials and players;
 - c) a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
 - d) a declaration that it will not take matters of interpretation and application of the FIFA, AFC and IFA Statutes, regulations, decisions and directives to Ordinary Courts, unless the FIFA, the AFC or the IFA regulations, or binding national law, provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts;
 - e) a declaration that it recognises the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, as specified in these Statutes;

- f) a declaration that it is located and registered in the territory of IFA;
- g) a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of IFA;
- h) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;
- i) a list of officials, specifying those who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- j) a declaration that it undertakes to organise or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of IFA;
- k) a copy of the minutes of its last congress or constitutional meeting;

⁴ This article shall not affect the status of existing Members.

Article 11 Request and procedure for application

¹ The Executive Committee shall request the Congress either to admit or not to admit an applicant. The applicant may state the reasons for its application to the Congress.

² The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties 30 days after it has been admitted.

Article 12 Members' rights

¹ The Members of IFA have the following rights:

- a) to take part in the Congress of IFA, to receive its agenda in advance, to be called to the Congress within the prescribed time and to exercise their voting rights;
- b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
- c) to nominate candidates for elections to all bodies of IFA;
- d) to be informed of the affairs of IFA through the official bodies of IFA;
- e) to take part in competitions and/or other sporting activities organised by IFA;
- f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of IFA.

² The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and the applicable regulations.

Article **13** Members' obligations

¹ The Members of IFA have the following obligations:

- a) to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, AFC and IFA at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
- b) to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies (at least every four (4) years);
- c) to take part in competitions and other sporting activities organised by IFA;
- d) to pay their membership subscriptions;
- e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by The IFAB and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game and the Futsal Laws of the Game as laid down by FIFA, and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;
- f) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, AFC, IFA or the League(s) shall only be referred to an Arbitration Tribunal or to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, both as specified in the FIFA Statutes and in these Statutes, and that any recourse to Ordinary Courts is prohibited, provided that this does not violate binding law;
- g) to communicate to IFA any amendment of its statutes and regulations as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- h) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised or with Members that have been suspended or expelled;
- i) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
- j) to observe the mandatory items specified under article 10 paragraph 3 for the duration of their affiliation;
- k) to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;
- l) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes of IFA.
- m) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA, AFC and IFA.

² Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes.

Article **14** Suspension

¹ The Congress is responsible for suspending a Member. The Executive Committee may, however, suspend a Member that seriously and/or repeatedly violates its obligations as a Member with immediate effect. The suspension

shall last until the next Congress, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime.

² A suspension shall be confirmed at the next Congress by three-quarter majority of the delegates representing the Members present and eligible to vote. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted.

³ A suspended Member shall lose its membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.

⁴ Members that do not participate in the sporting activities of IFA for one year shall be suspended from voting at the Congress and their representatives shall not be elected or appointed until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

Article 15 Expulsion

¹ The Congress may expel a Member if:

- a) it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards IFA;
- b) it repeatedly violates the Statutes, regulations, directives or decisions of FIFA, AFC and IFA;
- c) it brings a dispute to an Ordinary Court, except in cases where the FIFA, AFC or IFA regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts;

² The presence of a majority (more than 50%) of delegates representing the Members eligible to vote at the Congress is necessary for an expulsion to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarter majority of the valid votes cast.

Article 16 Resignation

¹ A Member may resign from IFA with effect from the end of each year. Notice of resignation must reach the general secretariat no later than two months before the end of the year.

² The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards IFA and the other Members of IFA.

Article 17 Independence of Members and their bodies

¹ Each Member shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third parties.

² The Members' bodies shall be either elected or appointed. The Members' statutes shall provide for a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment.

³ Any Members' bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with the provisions of par. 2, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by the Association.

⁴ Decisions passed by bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with par. 2 shall not be recognised by the Association.

**Article 18 Status of Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations
and other groups of Clubs**

¹ Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations or any other groups of Clubs affiliated to IFA shall be subordinate to and recognised by IFA. There shall only be one top-tier national league on the territory of IFA. These Statutes define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these Clubs and groups. Their statutes and regulations must be approved by the Executive Committee of IFA. Matters in relation to referees, disciplinary issues, anti-doping, club licensing and player registrations (ITC) shall remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of IFA.

² The affiliated Clubs and groups of IFA shall take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.

³ In any case, no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

Article **19** **Honorary president and honorary member**

¹ The Congress may bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member upon any person for meritorious service to football.

² The Executive Committee shall make these nominations.

³ The honorary president or honorary member may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

Article **20** **Bodies (of the Association)**

- ¹ The Congress is the supreme and legislative body.
- ² The Executive Committee is the executive body.
- ³ Standing and ad-hoc committees shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling its duties. Their duties, composition and function are defined in these Statutes and/or special regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee.
- ⁴ The general secretariat is the administrative body.
- ⁵ The judicial bodies are the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee.
- ⁶ The Club Licensing Body is in charge of the club licensing system within the Association.
- ⁷ The Electoral Committee is the body in charge of organising and supervising the election process.
- ⁸ The bodies of IFA shall be either elected or appointed by IFA itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes. The members of the bodies shall not have previously been found guilty of any criminal offence incompatible with the position.
- ⁹ Any member of the bodies of IFA must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interest.

A. CONGRESS

Article 21 Definition and composition of the Congress

¹ The Congress is the meeting at which all of the Members of IFA regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of IFA. Only a Congress that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.

² A Congress may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress.

³ The President shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with the Standing Orders of the Congress.

⁴ The Congress may appoint observers who take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote.

⁵ The honorary presidents or honorary members may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

Article 22 Delegates and votes

¹ The Congress is composed of 53 delegates. The number of the delegates is allocated as follows:

- a) for the Football clubs from the Premier Division (first level) of the Iraqi National League: 1 delegate from each Premier Division club for the completed season preceding the Congress (20 in total);
- b) for the Baghdad Regional First Division (second level) League: 1 delegate from each of the two first ranking clubs of the Baghdad First Division League for the completed season preceding the Congress (2 in total);
- c) for the Kurdistan Regional First Division (second level) League: 1 delegate from each of the two first ranking clubs of the Kurdistan First Division League for the completed season preceding the Congress (2 in total);
- d) for the Western Regional First Division (second level) League: 1 delegate from each of the two first ranking clubs of the Western First Division League for the completed season preceding the Congress (2 in total);
- e) for the Middle Euphrates Regional First Division (second level) League: 1 delegate from each of the two first ranking clubs of the Middle Euphrates First Division League for the completed season preceding the Congress (2 in total);
- f) for the Southern Regional First Division (second level) League: 1 delegate from each of the two first ranking clubs of the Southern First Division League for the completed season preceding the Congress (2 in total);
- g) for each Regional Association: 1 delegate from each regional association (18 in total).

- h) for the Iraqi National Women Football League; 1 delegate from each of the two first ranking teams of the Iraqi National Women League for the completed season preceding the Congress (2 in total), both of whom shall be female.
- i) for the Player's association: 1 delegate;
- j) for the Referees' association: 1 delegate;
- k) for the Coaches' association: 1 delegates;

² Delegates must belong to the Member that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.

³ Each delegate of the same category of Member has an equal number of votes in the Congress. Only the delegates present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.

⁴ The Executive Committee and the General Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights. During their terms of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed as delegates for their association. In an elective congress, a member of the executive committee who is a candidate standing for re-election may also be delegate for his association.

Article 23 Areas of authority

The Congress has the following areas of authority:

- a) adopting or amending the Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress;
- b) appointing 3 Members to check the minutes, and approving the minutes of the last meeting;
- c) electing or dismissing the President, the vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee;
- d) electing or dismissing the chairman, deputy chairman and members of the judicial bodies;
- e) appointing the scrutineers;
- f) approving the financial statements;
- g) approving the budget;
- h) approving the activity report;
- i) appointing the independent auditors upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- j) fixing the membership subscriptions on the recommendation of the Executive Committee;
- k) deciding, upon the nomination of the Executive Committee, whether to bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member;

- l) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member;
- m) revoking the mandate of one or a number of members of a body of IFA;
- n) dissolving IFA;
- o) passing decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with these Statutes;
- p) electing or dismissing the members of the Electoral Committee and the Electoral Appeal Committee;
- q) electing or dismissing the members of the Audit and Compliance Committee;

Article 24 Quorum of the Congress

¹ Decisions passed by the Congress shall only be valid if a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote are present.

² If a quorum is not achieved, a second Congress shall take place within 24 hours with the same agenda.

³ A quorum is not required for the second meeting of the Congress unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the Statutes of IFA, the election of the President and the election of the vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee, the dismissal of one or a number of members of a body of IFA, the expulsion of a Member of IFA or the dissolution of IFA.

Article 25 Decisions of the Congress

¹ A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in alphabetical order.

² Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient for a decision to be valid. Blank ballot papers, invalid votes or electronic votes manipulated in any other way as well as abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.

Article 26 Elections

¹ Elections may take place by position. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

² Elections of IFA, of Members of IFA and of members of Members of IFA shall be conducted in accordance with the Electoral Code of IFA.

³ 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 as from the second ballot until only two candidates are left.

⁴ For the election of the other members of the Executive Committee, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) shall be elected.

⁵ For the election of the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of all other bodies of IFA, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) or the list which receives the most votes shall be elected.

⁶ In case of a tied vote, new ballots shall be conducted until the respective candidate or list is elected in accordance with the procedure set forth by the present provision.

Article 27 Ordinary Congress

¹ The Ordinary Congress shall as a rule be held once a year.

² The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date. The Members shall be notified in writing at least 40 days in advance.

³ The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least 30 days before the date of the Congress. This convocation shall contain the agenda, the activity report, the financial statements and the auditors' report and any other relevant documents.

Article 28 Ordinary Congress agenda

¹ The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Executive Committee and the Members. Any proposal that a Member wishes to submit to the Congress shall be sent to the general secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least 40 days before the date of the Congress.

² The Congress agenda shall include the following mandatory items (in chronological order):

- a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes of IFA;
- b) approval of the agenda;
- c) an address by the President;
- d) appointment of 3 Members to check the minutes;
- e) appointment of 3 scrutineers;
- f) suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable);
- g) approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress;
- h) activity report (containing the activities since the last Congress);

- i) presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement;
- j) approval of the financial statements;
- k) approval of the budget;
- l) votes on proposals for amendments to the Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress (if applicable);
- m) discussion of proposals submitted by the Members and the Executive Committee in accordance with the procedure stipulated under paragraph 1 above;
- n) appointment of independent auditors (if applicable) upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- o) dismissal of a person or a body (if applicable);
- p) election of the President, vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee (if applicable);
- q) election of the members of the judicial bodies (if applicable);
- r) election of the members of the Audit and Compliance Committee (if applicable);
- s) election of the members of the Electoral Committee and the Electoral Appeal Committee (if applicable);
- t) admission for membership (if applicable)

³ The Congress shall not take a decision on any point not included in the agenda.

⁴ The agenda of an Ordinary Congress may be altered, provided three-quarters of the delegates representing the Members present at the Congress and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.

Article 29 Extraordinary Congress

¹ The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time.

² The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress if two thirds (2/3) of the delegates representing the Members of IFA make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary Congress shall be held within 45 days of receipt of the request. If an Extraordinary Congress is not convened, the delegates representing the Members who requested it may convene the Congress themselves. As a last resort, the delegates representing the Members may request assistance from FIFA and AFC.

³ The Members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least 30 days before the date of an Extraordinary Congress.

⁴ When an Extraordinary Congress is convened on the initiative of the Executive Committee, it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened upon the request of Members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Members.

⁵ The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress may not be altered.

Article 30 Amendments to the Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress

¹ The Congress is responsible for amending the Statutes, and, if applicable, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress.

² Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the general secretariat by a Member or by the Executive Committee. A proposal submitted by delegates representing a Member is valid, provided it has been supported in writing by at least five other delegates representing the Members.

³ For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes to be valid, a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote must be present.

⁴ A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes shall be adopted only if three-quarters of the delegates representing the Members present of the delegates representing the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it.

⁵ Any proposal to amend the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the general secretariat by the delegates representing a Member or by the Executive Committee.

⁶ A proposal for an amendment to the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress shall be adopted only by a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast.

Article 31 Minutes

The General Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the Congress. The minutes shall be checked by those Members designated, and finally approved at the next Congress.

Article 32 Effective dates of decisions

Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect for the Members the day after the close of the Congress, unless otherwise stipulated in the present Statutes or unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 33 Composition

¹ The Executive Committee consists of 13 members, of which at least one is female:

- 1 President
- 2 Vice-Presidents
- 10 members

² The President, the vice-presidents and the members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Congress by position. They shall undergo an integrity check, to be conducted by the Ethics Committee or by the Electoral Committee in accordance with the Electoral Code of IFA, prior to their election or re-election. Candidates for the position of President or Vice-President shall be proposed by 3 Members in the prescribed form at least 60 days before the Congress. Every candidate in the election of Executive Committee members must be proposed by at least two Members in the prescribed form at least 60 days before the Congress. Each member may only propose one candidate for each position on the Executive Committee. If a member presents proposals for more than one candidate, all of its presented proposals shall be deemed invalid.

³ The mandate of the President, vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee is for four years. Their mandates shall begin after the end of the Congress which has elected them. They may be re-elected.

⁴ The members of the Executive Committee shall be no younger than 25 years. They shall be Iraqi citizens carrying Iraqi nationality. They shall have already been active in football and have no less than five (5)-year experience in the administrative aspects of association football, of which at least three (3) years shall be within the ten (10) years immediately preceding the elections, and fulfil the prerequisites stipulated in art. 20 par. 8.

⁵ Candidatures must be sent to the general secretariat of IFA 60 days before the date of Congress at the latest. The official list of candidates must be passed to the Members of IFA along with the agenda for the Congress at which the Executive Committee will be elected.

⁶ A member of the Executive Committee may not at the same time be a member of a judicial body of IFA.

⁷ If a position or up to 50% of the positions of the Executive Committee become vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill the position(s) in question until the next Congress, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining period of office.

⁸ A position will be considered vacant in case of death or permanent disability, or if a member of the Executive Committee does not participate in three consecutive meetings without excusing himself accordingly.

⁹ If more than 50% of the positions of the Executive Committee become vacant, the Emergency Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress in order to elect the replacements for the remaining period of office. If the Emergency

Committee lacks the required quorum, the General Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary Congress within the prescribed period of time.

Article 34 Meetings

- ¹ The Executive Committee shall meet at least eight times a year.
 - ² The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If at least three members request a meeting, the President shall convene it within 14 days. If the President does not convene the requested meeting by the aforementioned deadline, the other members of the Executive Committee shall convene it themselves.
 - ³ The President shall compile the agenda. Each member of the Executive Committee is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda. The members of the Executive Committee must submit the points they wish to be included in the agenda for the meeting to the general secretariat at least 14 days before the meeting. The agenda must be sent out to the members of the Executive Committee at least seven days before the meeting.
 - ⁴ The General Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Executive Committee in a consultative role. If the General Secretary is unable to attend a meeting, he may nominate a representative to attend the meeting on his behalf, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.
 - ⁵ The meetings of the Executive Committee shall not be held in public. The Executive Committee may, however, invite third parties to attend. Those third parties shall not have voting rights, and may only express an opinion with the permission of the Executive Committee.
 - ⁶ A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands unless decided otherwise by the Executive Committee.
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Article 35 Powers of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee:

- a) shall pass decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes;
- b) shall prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of IFA;
- c) shall appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees;
- d) may decide to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary at any time;
- e) shall compile the regulations for the organisation of standing committees and ad-hoc committees;
- f) shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President;
- g) shall propose the independent auditors to the Congress;

- h) shall appoint replacements for vacancies in the judicial bodies or the Audit and Compliance Committee until the next Congress;
- i) shall draw up regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of competitions organised by the Association;
- j) shall appoint the coaches for the representative teams and other technical staff;
- k) shall approve regulations stipulating how IFA shall be organised internally;
- l) shall ensure that the Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
- m) may dismiss a person or body or suspend a Member of IFA provisionally until the next Congress;
- n) may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of IFA or third parties;
- o) may appoint observers who may take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote.

Article 36 Decisions

- ¹ The Executive Committee shall not engage in valid debate unless a majority (more than 50%) of its members are present.
- ² The Executive Committee shall reach decisions by a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
- ³ Any member of the Executive Committee must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interests
- ⁴ The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes.
- ⁵ The decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall come into effect immediately, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

Article 37 Dismissal of a person or body

- ¹ The Congress may dismiss a person or body. The Executive Committee may place the dismissal of a person or body on the agenda for the Congress. The Executive Committee may also dismiss a person or body provisionally. Any Executive Committee member may submit a proposal to place such a motion for dismissal on the agenda of the Executive Committee or Congress.
- ² The motion for dismissal must be justified. It will be sent to the members of the Executive Committee and/or to the Members of IFA along with the agenda.
- ³ The person or body in question has the right to defend himself or itself.

⁴ The motion for dismissal shall be decided by means of secret ballot. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds of the valid votes is required.

⁵ The person or body dismissed (provisionally) is relieved of his or its functions with immediate effect.

C. PRESIDENT

Article 38 President

- ¹ The President represents IFA legally.
- ² He is primarily responsible for:
 - a) implementing the decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee through the general secretariat;
 - b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of IFA in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
 - c) supervising the work of the general secretariat;
 - d) relations between IFA and its Members, FIFA, AFC, political bodies and other organisations.
- ³ Only the President may propose the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary.
- ⁴ The President shall preside over the Congress, the Executive Committee and Emergency Committee meetings and those committees of which he has been appointed chairman.
- ⁵ The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote.
- ⁶ If the President is absent or unavailable, the longest-serving vice-president available shall deputise.
- ⁷ The position of the President will be considered vacant in case of death or permanent disability, or if he does not participate in three consecutive meetings without an appropriate excuse.
- ⁸ If the position of the President becomes vacant, the Senior Vice-President shall deputise until the next Congress. This Congress shall elect a new President for the remaining period of office.

Article 39 Representation and signature

The President represents IFA legally and is entitled to sign for IFA. The Executive Committee may set up Internal Organisation Regulations regarding the joint signature of office-holders, in particular, in case of the President's absence and concerning all important business of IFA.

D. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Article **40** Emergency Committee

¹ The Emergency Committee shall deal with all matters requiring immediate settlement between two meetings of the Executive Committee. The Committee shall consist of the President of IFA and 4 members chosen from amongst the members of the Executive Committee and appointed by the Executive Committee for a period of four years.

² The President shall convene the Emergency Committee meetings. If a meeting cannot be convened within an appropriate period of time, decisions may be passed through other means of communication. Such decisions shall have immediate legal effect. The President shall notify the Executive Committee immediately of the decisions passed by the Emergency Committee.

³ The Emergency Committee shall not engage in valid debate unless three of its members take part in the debate. The Emergency Committee shall reach decisions by a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote.

⁴ All decisions taken by the Emergency Committee shall be ratified by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

⁵ If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the longest-serving vice-president, who shall be a member of the Emergency Committee, shall deputise. If none of the vice-presidents are members of the Emergency Committee, the longest-serving member of the Emergency Committee shall deputise.

E. STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 41 Standing Committees

¹ The standing committees of IFA are:

- a) Finance Committee;
- b) Audit and Compliance Committee;
- c) Competitions Committee;
- d) Technical Committee;
- e) Referees Committee;
- f) Women's Football Committee;
- g) Futsal and Beach Football Committee;
- h) Medical Committee;
- i) Players' Status Committee;
- j) National Teams Management Committee;

² The chairmen and deputy chairmen of the standing committees shall be members of the Executive Committee with the exception of those for the Audit and Compliance Committee, who may not belong to the Executive Committee. The members of each standing committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee on the proposal of the Members of IFA or the President of IFA. The chairmen, deputy chairmen and the members of the standing committees shall be designated for a term of office of four years.

³ Each chairman shall represent his committee and conduct business in compliance with the relevant Organisation Regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee.

⁴ Each chairman shall fix the dates of meetings in collaboration with the General Secretary, ensure that all tasks are carried out and report back to the Executive Committee.

⁵ Each committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Committee.

Article 42 Finance Committee

¹ The Finance Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman, the treasurer, and 4 members.

² Its duties shall be:

- a) To control the financial administration of IFA under the direction of the Executive Committee;
- b) To advise the Executive Committee on the management of all the financial assets of IFA.
- c) To prepare the budget for the Executive Committee and the Congress.

- d) To prepare the estimates for all activities approved by the Executive Committee.
- e) To determine and advise scales of payment of travel and other allowances to authorized officials of IFA.
- f) To determine and advise the Executive Committee for the remuneration to be paid to the General Secretary and the Secretariat staff.

Article **43** **Audit and Compliance Committee**

¹ The Audit and Compliance Committee shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting and review the financial statements, the consolidated financial statement and the external auditors' reports.

² The Audit and Compliance Committee shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in monitoring the Association's financial and compliance matters, and issue and monitor compliance with the relevant regulations of the Association.

³ Details on the Audit and Compliance Committee's responsibilities, its internal cooperation and other procedural matters are stipulated in the relevant regulations of the Association.

⁴ The chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four years and may only be relieved of their duties by the Congress. They shall undergo an integrity check, to be conducted by the Ethics Committee, prior to their election or re-election.

⁵ The chairman and deputy chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee shall be independent. They shall not be considered independent if, at any time during the four years preceding their terms, they or any family member (spouse, children, stepchildren, parents, siblings, domestic partner, parents of spouse/domestic partner and siblings and children of domestic partner):

- held any paid position or material contract (directly or indirectly) with IFA and or any Member/Confederation, League or Club (including any of their affiliated companies/organisations), whereas a voluntary position with an expenses allowance of more than USD 1,000 per month shall also be regarded as a paid position;
- was employed by IFA's outside legal counsel or by IFA's auditor (and was engaged in auditing IFA);
- held any paid or voluntary position with a non-profit organisation to which IFA and/or any Member, Confederation, League or Club makes annual payments in excess of USD 100,000.

⁶ If the chairman, the deputy chairman or a member of the Audit and Compliance Committee permanently ceases to perform his official function during his term of office, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next Congress.

Article **44** Competitions Committee

¹ The Competitions Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and 5 members.

² Its duties shall be:

- a) To arrange and manage competitions and matches on behalf of the IFA including making decisions on any matters related to these competitions and matches.
- b) To arrange the groups, venues and dates for competitions and matches and delegate if necessary, the organization of the same to any Member of the Committee.
- c) To appoint officials for its competitions.
- d) To recommend to the Executive Committee amendments or alterations to the Rules, Regulations and Instructions for competitions and matches.
- e) To submit reports and disseminate information on competitions and matches to the clubs, associations, etc. and to the media.
- f) To convene meetings with Club representatives who may draw attention to the problems and anomalies within their organization insofar as the competitions and matches are concerned and/or the Rules and Regulations, thereof, and to consider and resolve difficulties or differences that may arise.
- g) To administer and manage the registration of players, clubs, associations, business houses and all other organizations involved in football.
- h) To administer a historical database of all the competitions and matches involving the IFA, the national championships and all other competitions under the auspices of the IFA.

Article **45** Technical Committee

¹ The Technical Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and 5 members.

² Its duties shall be:

- a) To advance training methods.
- b) To take all possible measures to enhance the qualifications of coaches.
- c) To resolve questions on the theory and practice of football.
- d) To take all possible measures to promote, familiarization with and experience in teaching football.
- e) To organize courses and seminars for instructors, trainers, coaches, administrators in collaboration with FIFA and AFC.
- f) To compile materials on teaching and coaching techniques for players, trainers, coaches and referees.
- g) To deal with all matters concerning the construction of installations and the IT issues.

- h) To ensure availability of equipment to teach football.
- i) To provide the assistance necessary for the production of didactic films.

Article 46 Referees Committee

¹ The Referees Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and 5 members.

² Its duties shall be:

- a) To advance training methods.
- b) To implement the Laws of the Game.
- b) To establish uniformity and consistency the methods of refereeing.
- c) To propose to FIFA any amendments, alterations and modifications to the Laws of the Game to be submitted to the International Football Association Board.
- d) To compile a list of referees qualified to supervise domestic matches on an annual basis.
- e) To organize refereeing courses and seminar for Referees and Referee Instructors.
- f) To appoint a Panel of Referee Instructors to conduct refereeing courses and seminar organized by IFA.
- g) To appoint Referee Inspectors and Referees to supervise national matches in competitions organized by IFA or for any other matches or tournaments, whenever requested to do so.

Article 47 Women's Football Committee

¹ The Women's Football Committee shall consist of a chairman and 4 members.

² Its duties shall be:

- a) To deal with all matters related to women's football.
- b) To propose to the Executive Committee any measures deemed necessary to promote the development of women's football within Iraq.
- c) To advise and help the Executive Committee to establish women's football tournaments in the territory.

Article **48** **Futsal and Beach Football Committee**

- ¹ The Futsal and Beach Football Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and 3 members.
- ² Its duties shall be:
 - a) To promote and develop Futsal and Beach Football in the country.
 - b) To organize Futsal and Beach Football tournaments at all levels as deemed necessary.
 - c) To undertake the training and education of Futsal and Beach Football Coaches and Referees.
 - d) To establish uniformity in methods of Futsal and Beach Football refereeing and consistency in the application of the Futsal Laws of the Game.
 - e) To propose any amendments, alterations and modifications to the Futsal and Beach Football Laws of the Game to be submitted by FIFA.
 - f) To compile a list of Futsal and Beach Football referees qualified to supervise domestic matches.
 - g) To propose to the Executive Committee all measures deemed necessary to promote, develop and control Futsal and Beach Football in the country.

Article **49** **Medical Committee**

- ¹ The Medical Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and 5 members, all of whom must be qualified medical specialists.
- ² Its duties shall be:
 - a) To act as an advisory board for the Executive Committee on every aspect of medicine, physiology and hygiene.
 - b) To develop and use scientific experience in the fields of physiology, medical control, training theories, psychology and hygiene.
 - c) To draw up a medical guide for use by coaches, players and referees.
 - d) To draw up a guide for players to improve their athletic ability, physical fitness and performance capacity.
 - e) To prepare memoranda for trainers and coaches on the physical preparation of football players.
 - f) To prepare memoranda on diet and nourishment for players, giving appropriate recommendations.
 - g) To prepare memoranda on general aspects of sports hygiene and, in particular, the effects of certain substances on the body (alcohol, nicotine, medicaments, drugs, etc).
 - h) To issue instructions regarding medical facilities to be made available at matches and tournaments.
 - i) To investigate types of injuries suffered during football matches and to issue recommendations for improved prevention or treatment of such injuries.

- j) To form a group of specialists to participate in courses and meetings organized by FIFA and AFC.

Article 50 Players' Status Committee

¹ The Players' Status Committee shall set up and monitor compliance with transfer regulations in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and determine the status of Players for the various competitions of IFA. The Executive Committee may draw up special regulations governing the Players' Status Committee's powers of jurisdiction. The Players' Status Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 5 members.

² Players' status disputes involving IFA, its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents shall be settled by IFA Dispute Resolution Chamber in accordance with IFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of the Players and the Rules Governing the Procedure of IFA Dispute Resolution Chamber.

Article 51 National Teams Management Committee

¹ The National Teams Management Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and 3 members.

² Its duties shall be:

- a) To facilitate the preparation and participation of the national teams in international competitions.
- b) To propose coaches and officials to the national teams in coordination with the Technical Committee.
- c) To adhere and take notice of all sentiments expressed by the members at the Executive Committee and Congress on the performances of the national teams.

Article 52 Ad-hoc committees

The Executive Committee may, if necessary, create ad-hoc committees for special duties and a limited period of time. The Executive Committee shall appoint a chairman, a deputy chairman and the members. The duties and function are defined in special regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee. An ad-hoc committee shall report directly to the Executive Committee.

F. OTHER BODIES

Article 53 Club Licensing Body

The Club Licensing Body is in charge of the club licensing system within the Association in accordance with the regulations of IFA and the regulations of the relevant Confederation. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 5 members. At least one member shall be chartered accountant and at least one member shall be a lawyer.

Article 54 Electoral Committee

The Electoral Committee is the body in charge of organising and supervising the election process in accordance with the Electoral Code of IFA.

G. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Article 55 General secretariat

The general secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of IFA under the direction of the General Secretary. The members of the general secretariat are bound by the Internal Organisational Regulations of IFA and shall fulfil the given tasks in good faith.

Article 56 General Secretary

¹ The General Secretary is the chief executive of the general secretariat.

² He shall be appointed on the basis of an agreement governed by private law and shall have the necessary professional qualifications.

³ He shall be responsible for:

- a) implementing decisions passed by the Congress and Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
- b) attending the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee, Emergency Committee and the standing and ad-hoc committees;
- c) organising the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee and other bodies;
- d) compiling the minutes for the meetings of the Congress, Executive Committee, Emergency Committee and standing and ad-hoc committees;
- e) managing and keeping the accounts of IFA properly;
- f) the correspondence of IFA;
- g) relations with the Members, committees, FIFA and AFC;
- h) organising the general secretariat;
- i) the appointment and dismissal of staff working in the general secretariat;
- j) proposing managerial staff to the President.

Any additional responsibilities and duties assigned to the General Secretary shall be stipulated in the Internal Organisation Regulations of IFA.

⁴ The General Secretary may not be a Congress delegate or a member of any body of IFA.

H. JUDICIAL BODIES

Article 57 Judicial bodies

¹ The judicial bodies of IFA are:

- a) the Disciplinary Committee;
- b) the Ethics Committee;
- c) the Appeal Committee.

² The judicial bodies shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and a specific number of other members.

³ 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 chairmen of the judicial bodies shall be qualified to practise law and shall undergo an integrity check prior to their election or re-election. This integrity check shall be conducted by the Audit and Compliance Committee for all members of the Ethics Committee (including the chairman and deputy chairman). For all other members of the judicial bodies (including the chairmen and deputy chairmen), the integrity check shall be conducted by the Ethics Committee. The term of office of all members shall be four years. The members may be re-elected or relieved of their duties at any time, although they may only be relieved of their duties by the Congress.

⁴ The chairmen, deputy chairmen and other members of the judicial bodies shall be elected by the Congress upon proposal of the Executive Committee and shall not be members of the Executive Committee or of a standing committee.

⁵ The chairman and deputy chairman of the Ethics Committee shall fulfil the same independence criteria that are stipulated in art. 44 par. 5 for the chairman and deputy chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee.

⁶ If the chairman, the deputy chairman or a member of a judicial body permanently ceases to perform his official function during his term of office, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next Congress.

⁶ The responsibilities and function of the judicial bodies shall be stipulated in the Disciplinary Code of IFA and the Code of Ethics of IFA.

Article 58 Disciplinary Committee

¹ The function of the Disciplinary Committee shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of IFA. The Disciplinary Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, as specified in the Disciplinary Code, the chairman may rule alone.

² The Disciplinary Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the Disciplinary Code of IFA on Members, Officials, Players, Clubs and match and players' agents.

³ These provisions do not affect the powers of the Congress and the Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members.

⁴ The Executive Committee shall issue the Disciplinary Code of IFA.

⁵ The Disciplinary Committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Committee.

Article 59 Ethics Committee

¹ The function of the Ethics Committee shall be governed by the Code of Ethics of IFA. The Ethics Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, as specified in the Code of Ethics, the chairman may rule alone.

² The Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes, the Code of Ethics of IFA and the Disciplinary Code of IFA on Officials, Players and match and players' agents.

³ The Executive Committee shall issue the Code of Ethics of IFA, which shall be in accordance with the principles laid down in the valid FIFA Code of Ethics.

⁵ The Ethics Committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Committee.

Article 60 Appeal Committee

¹ The function of the Appeal Committee shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of IFA and the Code of Ethics of IFA. The Appeal Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three of the members are present. In certain cases, as specified in the relevant regulations, the chairman may rule alone.

² The Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee and the Ethics Committee that are not declared final by the relevant regulations of IFA.

³ Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee may only be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, or to a national, independent Arbitration Tribunal in accordance with the provisions in these Statutes.

Article **61** **Disciplinary measures**

The disciplinary measures are primarily:

- ¹ for natural and legal persons:
 - a) a warning;
 - b) a reprimand;
 - c) a fine;
 - d) the return of awards.

- ² for natural persons:
 - a) a caution;
 - b) an expulsion;
 - c) a match suspension;
 - d) a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
 - e) a ban from entering a stadium;
 - f) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
 - g) social work.

- ³ for legal persons:
 - a) a transfer ban;
 - b) playing a match without spectators;
 - c) playing a match on neutral territory;
 - d) a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
 - e) annulment of the result of the match;
 - f) expulsion from a competition;
 - g) a forfeit;
 - h) deduction of points;
 - i) relegation to a lower division;
 - j) replaying a match.

Article **62** **Arbitration**

¹ Disputes in the Association or disputes affecting Leagues, members of Leagues, Clubs, members of Clubs, Players, Officials and other Association Officials shall not be submitted to Ordinary Courts, unless the FIFA regulations, these Statutes or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts.

² Such disputes as specified in par. 1 shall be taken to an independent Arbitration Tribunal recognised by IFA or AFC, or to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Article **63** Jurisdiction

¹ Recourse may only be made to an Arbitration Tribunal in accordance with art. 62 once all internal channels of IFA have been exhausted

² IFA shall have jurisdiction on internal national disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to IFA. FIFA shall have jurisdiction on international disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to different Associations and/or Confederations.

Article **64** Court of Arbitration for Sport

¹ In accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Statutes, any appeal against a final and binding decision passed by FIFA, AFC, or the Leagues shall be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, unless another Arbitration Tribunal has jurisdiction in accordance with art. 62. CAS shall not, however, hear appeals on violations of the Laws of the Game, and suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months (with the exception of doping decisions).

² IFA shall ensure its full compliance and that of all those subject to its jurisdiction with any final decision passed by a FIFA body, by an AFC body, by the Arbitration Tribunal recognised by IFA or by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Article 65 Financial period

- ¹ The financial period of IFA shall be one year and shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December.
 - ² The revenue and expenses of IFA shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. IFA's major duties in the future shall be guaranteed through the creation of reserves.
 - ³ The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of IFA with its subsidiaries as at 31 December.
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Article 66 Revenue

The revenue of IFA arises specifically from:

- a) Members' annual subscriptions;
 - b) receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which IFA is entitled;
 - c) fines imposed by the authorised bodies;
 - d) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by IFA;
 - e) donations;
 - f) any other revenue related to football activities.
-

Article 67 Expenses

IFA bears:

- a) the expenses stipulated in the budget;
 - b) other expenses approved by the Congress and expenses that the Executive Committee is entitled to incur within the scope of its authority;
 - c) all other expenses in keeping with the objectives pursued by IFA.
-

Article 68 Independent and external auditors

The independent and external auditors appointed by the Congress shall audit the accounts approved by the Finance Committee in accordance with the appropriate principles of accounting and present a report to the Congress. The auditors shall be appointed for a period of one year. This mandate may be renewed.

Article **69** **Membership subscriptions**

¹ Membership subscriptions are due 1 January. The annual subscription for new Members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the Congress at which they are admitted.

² The Congress shall fix the amount of the annual subscription every four years on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. It shall be the same for every Member and amount to no more than USD 100.

Article **70** **Settlement**

IFA may debit any Member's assets to settle claims.

Article **71** **Levies**

IFA may demand that a levy be paid by its Members for matches.

Article 72 Competitions

¹ IFA organises and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territory:

- a) Iraqi National Premier League;
- b) Iraqi Republic Cup;
- c) Iraqi First and Second Division League;
- d) Women's League Football.

² The Executive Committee may delegate to IFA's subordinate Leagues the authority to organise competitions. The competitions organised by the Leagues shall not interfere with those competitions organised by IFA. Competitions organised by IFA shall take priority.

³ The Executive Committee may issue special regulations to this end.

Article 73 Club licensing

The Executive Committee of IFA will set up regulations regarding a club licensing system governing the participation of Clubs in the competitions of IFA, in compliance with the minimum requirements of the club licensing system as set up by AFC in conformity with the FIFA Club Licensing Regulations.

Article 74 Rights

¹ IFA and its Members are the original owners of all of the rights emanating from competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time and place. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.

² The Executive Committee shall decide how and to what extent these rights are utilised and draw up special regulations to this end.

Article 75 Authorisation

IFA and its Members are exclusively responsible for authorising the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of football matches and events coming under their respective jurisdiction, and without any restrictions.

Article **76** International matches and competitions

¹ The authority for organising international matches and competitions between representative teams and between Leagues, Club teams and/or scratch teams lies solely with FIFA, the Confederation(s) and/or the Association(s) concerned. No such match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of FIFA, the Confederation(s) and/or the Association(s) concerned in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

² IFA is bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

Article **77** Contacts

IFA, its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents shall not play matches or make sporting contact with Associations that are not members of FIFA or with provisional members of a Confederation without the approval of FIFA.

Article **78** Approval

¹ Clubs, Leagues or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to IFA may only join another Association with the authorisation of IFA, the other Association, the respective Confederation(s) and FIFA.

² Clubs, Leagues or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to IFA cannot participate in competitions on the territory of another Association without the authorisation of IFA, the other Association(s), FIFA and the respective Confederation(s) according to the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

Article 79 Unforeseen contingencies and force majeure

The Executive Committee shall have the power to decide on all cases of force majeure and on all matters not provided for in these Statutes, such decisions to be made according to right and justice, taking into account the relevant regulations of FIFA and AFC.

Article 80 Dissolution

¹ Any decision relating to the dissolution of IFA requires a majority of three-quarters of all of the Members of IFA, which must be obtained at a Congress specially convened for the purpose.

² If IFA is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to the Iraqi National Olympic Committee (INOC). It shall hold these assets as a trustee in accordance with the relevant professional duties until IFA is re-established. The final Congress may, however, choose another recipient for the assets on the basis of a two-thirds majority.

Article 81 Enforcement

These Statutes were adopted at the Congress in Baghdad on 20/05/2017 and .will come into force on 21/05/2017