

# FIFA Statutes

July 2012 edition

**FIFA**<sup>®</sup>

*For the Game. For the World.*

## **Fédération Internationale de Football Association**

President: Joseph S. Blatter  
Secretary General: Jérôme Valcke  
Address: FIFA  
FIFA-Strasse 20  
P.O. Box  
8044 Zurich  
Switzerland  
Telephone: +41-(0)43-222 7777  
Fax: +41-(0)43-222 7878  
Internet: [www.FIFA.com](http://www.FIFA.com)



# FIFA Statutes

Regulations Governing  
the Application  
of the Statutes  
Standing Orders of the  
Congress

July 2012 edition

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## GENERAL PROVISIONS

The terms given below denote the following:

- 1** FIFA: “Fédération Internationale de Football Association”.
- 2** Association: a football association recognised by FIFA. It is a member of FIFA, unless a different meaning is evident from the context.
- 3** League: an organisation that is subordinate to an Association.
- 4** British Associations: the four Associations in the United Kingdom – The Football Association, The Scottish Football Association, The Football Association of Wales and The Irish Football Association (Northern Ireland).
- 5** IFAB: the International Football Association Board.
- 6** Confederation: a group of Associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographic region).
- 7** Congress: the supreme and legislative body of FIFA.
- 8** Executive Committee: the executive body of FIFA.
- 9** Member: an Association that has been admitted into membership of FIFA by the Congress.

**10 Official:** every board member, committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in FIFA, a Confederation, Association, League or club.

**11 Player:** any football player licensed by an Association.

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

**13 Official competition:** a competition for representative teams organised by FIFA or any Confederation.

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

# 1

## Name and headquarters

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1. The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) is an association registered in the Commercial Register in accordance with art. 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code.
2. FIFA headquarters are located in Zurich (Switzerland) and may only be transferred to another location following a resolution passed by the Congress.

# 2

## Objectives

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The objectives of FIFA are:

- a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote it globally in the light of its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
- b) to organise its own international competitions;
- c) to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
- d) to control every type of Association Football by taking appropriate steps to prevent infringements of the Statutes, regulations or decisions of FIFA or of the Laws of the Game;
- e) to prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardise the integrity of matches or competitions or give rise to abuse of Association Football.



## 3

### Non-discrimination and stance against racism

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Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.

## 4

### Promoting friendly relations

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1. FIFA shall promote friendly relations:

a) between Members, Confederations, clubs, Officials and Players. Every person and organisation involved in the game of football is obliged to observe the Statutes, regulations and the principles of fair play;

b) in society for humanitarian objectives.

2. FIFA shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any dispute that may arise between Members, Confederations, clubs, Officials and Players.

## 5

### Players

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The Executive Committee shall regulate the status of Players and the provisions for their transfer, as well as questions relating to these matters, in particular the encouragement of player training by clubs and the protection of representative teams, in special regulations.

# 6

## Laws of the Game

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1. Each Member of FIFA shall play Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB. Only IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.
2. IFAB is composed of eight members; four members are designated by FIFA and four by the British Associations.
3. The duties and responsibilities of IFAB are contained in special regulations.
4. Each Member of FIFA shall play futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game, as issued by the FIFA Executive Committee.

# 7

## Conduct of bodies and officials

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1. The bodies and Officials must observe the Statutes, regulations, decisions and Code of Ethics of FIFA in their activities.
2. Executive bodies of Member Associations may under exceptional circumstances be removed from office by the Executive Committee in consultation with the relevant Confederation and replaced by a normalisation committee for a specific period of time.

# 8

## Official languages

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- 1.** English, Spanish, French and German are the official languages of FIFA. English is the official language for minutes, correspondence and announcements.
- 2.** Members are responsible for translations into the language of their country.
- 3.** English, Spanish, French, German, Russian, Arabic and Portuguese are the official languages at the Congress. Qualified interpreters shall translate into these languages. Delegates may speak in their mother tongue if they ensure interpretation into one of the official Congress languages by a qualified interpreter.
- 4.** The Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes, the Standing Orders of the Congress, decisions and announcements of FIFA shall be published in the four official languages. If there is any divergence in the wording, the English text is authoritative.

# 9

## Admission, suspension and expulsion

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The Congress shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.

# 10

## Admission

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1. Any Association which is responsible for organising and supervising football in its country may become a Member of FIFA. In this context, the expression “country” shall refer to an independent state recognised by the international community. Subject to par. 5 and par. 6 below, only one Association shall be recognised in each country.
  
2. Membership is only permitted if an Association is currently a member of a Confederation. The Executive Committee may issue regulations with regard to the admission process.
  
3. Any Association wishing to become a Member of FIFA shall apply in writing to the FIFA general secretariat.
  
4. The Association’s legally valid statutes shall be enclosed with the application for membership and shall contain the following mandatory provisions:
  - a) always to comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of FIFA and of its Confederation;
  
  - b) to comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
  
  - c) to recognise the Court of Arbitration for Sport, as specified in these Statutes.

5. Each of the four British Associations is recognised as a separate Member of FIFA.
6. An Association in a region which has not yet gained independence may, with the authorisation of the Association in the country on which it is dependent, also apply for admission to FIFA.
7. This article shall not affect the status of existing Members.

## 11 Request and procedure for application

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1. The Executive Committee shall request the Congress either to admit or not to admit an Association. The Association may state the reasons for its application to the Congress.
2. The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted. Its delegates are eligible to vote and be elected with immediate effect.

## 12 Members' rights

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1. Members have the following rights:
  - a) to take part in the Congress;
  - b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
  - c) to nominate candidates for the FIFA presidency;

- d)** to take part in competitions organised by FIFA;
  - e)** to take part in FIFA's assistance and development programmes;
  - f)** to exercise all other rights arising from these Statutes and other regulations.
- 2.** The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and the applicable regulations.

## 13 Members' obligations

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**1.** Members have the following obligations:

- a)** to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA bodies at any time as well as the decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) passed on appeal on the basis of art. 66 par. 1 of the FIFA Statutes;
- b)** to take part in competitions organised by FIFA;
- c)** to pay their membership subscriptions;
- d)** to ensure that their own members comply with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA bodies;
- e)** to create a Referees Committee that is directly subordinate to the Member;
- f)** to respect the Laws of the Game;

**g)** to manage their affairs independently and ensure that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties;

**h)** to comply fully with all other duties arising from these Statutes and other regulations.

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

**3.** Violations of par. 1 (g) may also lead to sanctions even if the third-party influence was not the fault of the Member concerned.

## 14 Suspension

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**1.** The Congress is responsible for suspending a Member. The Executive Committee may, however, suspend a Member that seriously 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 a three-quarter majority of the votes taken. 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 which do not participate in at least two of all FIFA competitions over a period of four consecutive years shall be suspended from voting at the Congress until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

## 15 Expulsion

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1. The Congress may expel a Member:
  - a) if it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards FIFA; or
  - b) if it seriously violates the Statutes, regulations, decisions or the Code of Ethics of FIFA; or
  - c) if it loses the status of an Association representing Association Football in its country.
  
2. The presence of an absolute majority of Members entitled 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 votes taken.

## 16 Resignation

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1. A Member may resign from FIFA with effect from the end of a calendar year. Notice of resignation must reach the general secretariat no later than six months before the end of the calendar year and be sent by registered letter.
  
2. The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards FIFA and its other Members.



## 17 Independence of Members and their bodies

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1. Each Member shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third parties.
2. A Member's bodies shall be either elected or appointed in that Association. A Member's statutes shall provide for a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment.
3. Any Member's 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 FIFA.
4. Decisions passed by bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with par. 2 shall not be recognised by FIFA.

## 18 Status of Leagues and other groups of clubs

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1. Leagues or any other groups affiliated to a Member of FIFA shall be subordinate to and recognised by that Member. The Member's statutes shall define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these groups. The statutes and regulations of these groups shall be approved by the Member.
2. Every Member shall ensure that its affiliated clubs can take all decisions on any matters regarding membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of an affiliated club's corporate structure. In any case, the Member shall ensure that neither a natural nor a legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) exercises control over more than one club whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

## **19** Honorary president, honorary vice-president and honorary member

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- 1.** The Congress may bestow the title of honorary president, honorary vice-president or honorary member upon any former member of the FIFA Executive Committee for meritorious service to football.
- 2.** The Executive Committee shall make these nominations.
- 3.** The honorary president, honorary vice-president or honorary member may take part in the Congress. They may join in the debates but may not vote.

# 20 Confederations

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**1.** Members that belong to the same continent have formed the following Confederations, which are recognised by FIFA:

- a)** Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol – CONMEBOL
- b)** Asian Football Confederation – AFC
- c)** Union des associations européennes de football – UEFA
- d)** Confédération Africaine de Football – CAF
- e)** Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football – CONCACAF
- f)** Oceania Football Confederation – OFC

**2.** FIFA may, in exceptional circumstances, authorise a Confederation to grant membership to an Association that belongs geographically to another continent and is not affiliated to the Confederation on that continent. The opinion of the Confederation concerned geographically shall be obtained.

**3.** Each Confederation shall have the following rights and obligations:

- a)** to comply with and enforce compliance with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of FIFA;
- b)** to work closely with FIFA in every domain so as to achieve the objectives stipulated in art. 2 and to organise international competitions;
- c)** to organise its own interclub competitions, in compliance with the international match calendar;

**d)** to organise its own international competitions, particularly youth competitions, in compliance with the international match calendar;

**e)** to ensure that international Leagues or any other such groups of clubs or Leagues shall not be formed without its consent and the approval of FIFA;

**f)** at the request of FIFA, to grant Associations applying for membership the status of a provisional member. This status shall grant Associations the right to take part in the Confederation's competitions and conferences.

Any other rights and obligations of the provisional member shall be regulated by the Confederation's statutes and regulations. Provisional members may not take part in FIFA final competitions;

**g)** to appoint to the Executive Committee members to which they are entitled in compliance with these Statutes;

**h)** to propose one candidate for the office of Representative of Women's Football based on proposals from its member associations;

**i)** to nurture relations and cooperation with FIFA actively and constructively for the good of the game through consultative meetings and to discuss and resolve any problems relating to the interests of the Confederations and FIFA;

**j)** to ensure that the representatives appointed to FIFA bodies or the Executive Committee carry out their activities on these bodies with mutual respect, solidarity, recognition and fair play;

**k)** to set up committees that work closely together with the corresponding committees at FIFA;

- l)** exceptionally to allow, with FIFA's consent, an Association from another Confederation (or clubs belonging to that Association) to participate in a competition that it is organising;
  - m)** with the mutual cooperation of FIFA, to take any action considered necessary to develop the game of football on the continent concerned, such as arranging development programmes, courses, conferences etc.;
  - n)** to set up the bodies necessary to fulfil the duties incumbent upon it;
  - o)** to procure the funds necessary to fulfil its duties.
- 4.** The Executive Committee may delegate other duties or powers to the Confederations. To this end, FIFA may conclude an appropriate agreement with each of the Confederations concerned.
- 5.** The Confederations' statutes and regulations shall be submitted to FIFA for approval.

# 21 Bodies

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1. The Congress is the supreme and legislative body.
2. The Executive Committee is the executive body.
3. The general secretariat is the administrative body.
4. Standing and ad-hoc committees shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling its duties. Their primary duties are defined in these Statutes and their composition, function and additional duties are defined in special regulations.

## A. CONGRESS

# 22 Congress

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- 1.** A Congress may be an Ordinary or an Extraordinary Congress.
- 2.** The Ordinary Congress shall be held every year. The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date. The Members shall be notified in writing at least three months in advance. The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least one month before the date of the Congress. This convocation shall contain the agenda, the President's report, the financial statements and the auditors' report.
- 3.** The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time.
- 4.** The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress if one-fifth of the Members make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary Congress shall be held within three months of receipt of the request.
- 5.** The Members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least two months before the date of an Extraordinary Congress. The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress may not be altered.

## 23 **Vote, delegates, observers**

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1. Each Member has one vote in the Congress and is represented by its delegates. Only the Members present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
2. Delegates must belong to the Member Association that they represent and be appointed by the appropriate body of that Association.
3. Confederation delegates may take part in the Congress as observers.
4. During their term of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed as delegates for their Association.
5. The President shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with the Standing Orders of the Congress.

## 24 **Candidates for the office of FIFA President, for the Representative of Women's Football and for the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee and the judicial bodies**

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1. Only Members may propose candidates for the office of FIFA President. Members shall notify the FIFA general secretariat in writing of the name of a candidate for the FIFA presidency at least two months before the date of the Congress.
2. The general secretariat shall notify the Members of the names of proposed candidates at least one month before the date of the Congress.



- 3.** Each Confederation may propose one candidate for the office of Representative of Women's Football based on proposals from its member associations. Confederations must notify the general secretariat, in writing, of a candidature for the office of Representative of Women's Football at least four months before the start of the Congress.
  
- 4.** The Executive Committee may submit proposals for the offices of chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee and the judicial bodies. The Executive Committee shall determine in advance the number of seats to be assigned to each Confederation in the relevant committee. Proposals shall be submitted, in writing, to the general secretariat at least four months before the start of the Congress. The procedure shall be laid down in the Organisation Regulations of FIFA.

## 25 Ordinary Congress agenda

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- 1.** The Secretary General 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 two months before the date of the Congress.
  
- 2.** The Congress agenda shall include the following mandatory items:
  - a)** a declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes;
  
  - b)** approval of the agenda;
  
  - c)** an address by the President;
  
  - d)** appointment of five Members to check the minutes;
  
  - e)** appointment of scrutineers;

- f)** suspension or expulsion of a Member (if applicable);
- g)** approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress;
- h)** activity report (containing the activities since the last Congress);
- i)** report from the Audit and Compliance Committee;
- j)** presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement;
- k)** approval of the financial statements;
- l)** approval of the budget;
- m)** admission for membership (if applicable);
- n)** 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);
- o)** discussion of proposals submitted by the Members and the Executive Committee within the period stipulated under par. 1 (if applicable);
- p)** appointment of auditors (if applicable);
- q)** election of the President and the Representative of Women's Football and installation of the vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee (if applicable);
- r)** election or dismissal of the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the judicial bodies and of the chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee (if applicable).

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

## **26 Amendments to the Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress**

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1. The Congress is responsible for amending the Statutes, 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 a Member is valid, provided it has been supported in writing by at least two other Members.
3. For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes to be valid, an absolute majority (half of the Members plus one Member) of 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 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 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 if a simple majority of the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it.

## 27 Elections, other decisions, requisite majority

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1. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
2. Any other 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, members being called in English alphabetical order.
3. For the election of the President, two-thirds of the votes recorded and valid are necessary in the first ballot. In the second and any other requisite ballot, an absolute majority of the votes recorded is sufficient. If there are more than two candidates, 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 chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the judicial bodies, of the Audit and Compliance Committee and of the Representative of Women's Football, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) shall be elected. With regard to the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the judicial bodies and of the Audit and Compliance Committee, the election may be conducted en bloc. At the request of at least ten Members, however, a separate vote for a specific candidate shall take place.
5. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a simple majority is sufficient for a vote to be valid. The number of valid votes counted shall decide the simple majority. Abstentions are disregarded in calculating the majority.

## 28 Minutes

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1. The Secretary General shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the Congress.
2. The minutes of the Congress shall be checked by those Members designated.

## 29 Effective dates of decisions

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Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect for the Members sixty days after the close of the Congress, unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

## B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **30** Composition, election of the President and the Representative of Women's Football, vice-presidents and members

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**1.** The Executive Committee consists of 25 members:

1 President, elected by the Congress

8 vice-presidents,

1 Representative of Women's Football, elected by the Congress, and

15 members, appointed by the Confederations and Associations.

**2.** The President shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four years in the year following a FIFA World Cup™. His mandate shall begin after the end of the Congress which has elected him. A President may be re-elected.

**3.** The Representative of Women's Football shall be elected by the Congress. The Representative of Women's Football shall be a woman. The mandate shall be for a period of four years, beginning after the end of the Congress at which the Representative of Women's Football was elected.

**4.** The members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the respective Confederations, with the exception of the vice-president representing the four British Associations, who is elected by the latter. All Confederations and the four British Associations shall pass a single decision as to when they wish to appoint or elect their member(s) to the FIFA Executive Committee. The subsequent Congresses of the Confederations and the four British Associations shall take this decision within one year of these Statutes coming into force. When making the appointments, a Confederation may appoint or reappoint only half of its members (in the case of odd numbers, half of the appointments plus or minus one), and only every two years. The Executive Committee members' mandates shall last for four years, starting upon their installation by the FIFA Congress. If a Confederation or the four British Associations decide to change the year for making appointments or

holding an election in its statutes, the mandate of the vice-president and members appointed to the FIFA Executive Committee will be extended by one year, but only once.

An installed member of the Executive Committee may only be removed from office by the FIFA Congress.

The Confederations are apportioned the following places:

a)	CONMEBOL	vice-president	(1)	members	(2)
b)	AFC	vice-president	(1)	members	(3)
c)	UEFA	vice-presidents	(2)	members	(5)
d)	CAF	vice-president	(1)	members	(3)
e)	CONCACAF	vice-president	(1)	members	(2)
f)	OFC	vice-president	(1)	member	(–)
g)	the four British Associations	vice-president	(1)	member	(–)

**5.** Not more than one member from the same Association may serve on the Executive Committee simultaneously.

**6.** The mandate of vice-presidents and members is for four years. They may be re-elected.

**7.** If the President is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his official function, the longest serving vice-president shall represent him until the next Congress. This Congress shall elect a new President, if necessary.

**8.** If the Representative of Women's Football permanently ceases to perform her official function, the Executive Committee may designate another Representative of Women's Football until the next Congress.

**9.** Any member of the Executive Committee who no longer exercises his official function shall be immediately replaced by the Confederation or Associations which appointed him for the remaining period of office.

## 31 Powers of the Executive Committee

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1. The Executive Committee 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.
2. The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year.
3. The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If at least thirteen members of the Executive Committee request a meeting, the President shall convene it.
4. The Executive Committee shall appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees with the exception of those of the Audit and Compliance Committee, who are elected by the Congress.
5. The President shall compile the agenda. Each member of the Executive Committee is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda.
6. The Executive Committee may decide to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary at any time.
7. The Executive Committee shall appoint the delegates from FIFA to IFAB.
8. The Executive Committee shall compile the regulations for the organisation of standing committees and ad-hoc committees.



- 9.** The Executive Committee shall appoint or dismiss the Secretary General on the proposal of the President. The Secretary General shall attend the meetings of all the committees ex officio.
- 10.** The Executive Committee shall decide the place and dates of the final competitions of FIFA tournaments and the number of teams taking part from each Confederation.
- 11.** The Executive Committee shall approve the Organisation Regulations of FIFA.

C. PRESIDENT

# 32 President

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1. The President represents FIFA legally.
2. He is primarily responsible for:
  - a) implementing the decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee through the general secretariat;
  - b) supervising the work of the general secretariat;
  - c) relations between FIFA and the Confederations, Members, political bodies and international organisations.
3. Only the President may propose the appointment or dismissal of the Secretary General.
4. The President shall preside over the Congress, the Executive 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. Any additional powers of the President shall be contained in the Organisation Regulations of FIFA.

## D. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

# 33

## Emergency Committee

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- 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 FIFA President and one member from each Confederation appointed by the Executive Committee and chosen from among its members 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.** All decisions taken by the Emergency Committee shall be ratified by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.
- 4.** If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the longest serving vice-president available shall deputise.
- 5.** The President is entitled to designate a deputy for any member who is unable to attend or has a conflict of interests. The deputy shall belong to the Executive Committee and the same Confederation as the member who is unable to attend or has a conflict of interests.

## E. STANDING COMMITTEES

# 34 Standing committees

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1. The standing committees are:

- a) Finance Committee
- b) Audit and Compliance Committee
- c) Strategic Committee
- d) Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup™
- e) Organising Committee for the FIFA Confederations Cup
- f) Organising Committee for the Olympic Football Tournaments
- g) Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 World Cup
- h) Organising Committee for the FIFA U-17 World Cup
- i) Committee for Women's Football and the FIFA Women's World Cup™
- j) Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup
- k) Organising Committee for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup
- l) Futsal Committee

- m)** Beach Soccer Committee
- n)** Committee for Club Football
- o)** Organising Committee for the FIFA Club World Cup
- p)** Referees Committee
- q)** Football Committee
- r)** Medical Committee
- s)** Development Committee
- t)** Players' Status Committee
- u)** Legal Committee
- v)** Committee for Fair Play and Social Responsibility
- w)** Media Committee
- x)** Associations Committee
- y)** Marketing and Television Committee
- z)** Stadium and Security Committee

**2.** The chairmen and deputy chairmen of the standing committees shall be members of the Executive Committee with the exception of those of the Audit and Compliance Committee, who may not belong to the Executive Committee.

3. The members of each standing committee shall be designated by the Executive Committee on the proposal of the Members of FIFA, the President of FIFA or the Confederations. The chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee shall be elected by the Congress. The chairmen, deputy chairmen and the members of the standing committees shall be designated for a term of office of four years. Members may be re-appointed and may also be relieved of their duties at any time, although the chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee may only be relieved of their duties by the Congress.
4. The composition, specific duties and powers of the individual committees shall be stipulated in the Organisation Regulations of FIFA.
5. Each chairman shall represent his committee and conduct business in compliance with the Organisation Regulations of FIFA.
6. Each committee may, if necessary, set up a bureau and/or sub-committee to settle urgent matters.
7. Each committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Committee.

## 35 Finance Committee

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The Finance Committee shall monitor the financial management and advise the Executive Committee on financial matters and asset management. It shall analyse the FIFA budget and the financial statements prepared by the Secretary General and submit them to the Executive Committee for approval.

## 36 Audit and Compliance Committee

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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' report.
2. The Audit and Compliance Committee shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in monitoring FIFA's financial and compliance matters and issue and monitor compliance with the Organisation Regulations of FIFA.
3. Details on the Audit and Compliance Committee's responsibilities, its internal cooperation and other procedural matters are stipulated in the Organisation Regulations of FIFA.
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.
5. The chairman and deputy chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee shall fulfil the independence criteria as described in the Standing Orders of the Congress.

## 37 Strategic Committee

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The Strategic Committee shall deal with global strategies for football and its political, economic and social status.

## **38** Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup™

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The Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup™ shall organise the FIFA World Cup™ in compliance with the provisions of the regulations applicable to this competition, the List of Requirements and the Organising Association Agreement.

## **39** Organising Committee for the FIFA Confederations Cup

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The Organising Committee for the FIFA Confederations Cup shall organise the FIFA Confederations Cup in compliance with the provisions of the regulations applicable to this competition, the List of Requirements and the Organising Association Agreement.

## **40** Organising Committee for the Olympic Football Tournaments

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The Organising Committee for the Olympic Football Tournaments shall organise the Olympic Football Tournaments in compliance with the provisions of the regulations applicable to these tournaments and the Olympic Charter.

## **41** Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 World Cup

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The Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 World Cup shall organise the FIFA U-20 World Cup in compliance with the provisions of the regulations applicable to this competition, the List of Requirements and the Organising Association Agreement.



## 42 **Organising Committee for the FIFA U-17 World Cup**

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The Organising Committee for the FIFA U-17 World Cup shall organise the FIFA U-17 World Cup in compliance with the provisions of the regulations applicable to this competition, the List of Requirements and the Organising Association Agreement.

## 43 **Committee for Women's Football and the FIFA Women's World Cup™**

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The Committee for Women's Football and the FIFA Women's World Cup™ shall organise the FIFA Women's World Cup™ in compliance with the provisions of the regulations applicable to this competition, the List of Requirements and the Organising Association Agreement and deal with general issues relating to women's football.

## 44 **Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup**

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The Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup shall organise the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in compliance with the provisions of the regulations applicable to this competition, the List of Requirements and the Organising Association Agreement.

## 45 **Organising Committee for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup**

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The Organising Committee for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup shall organise the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in compliance with the provisions of the regulations applicable to this competition, the List of Requirements and the Organising Association Agreement.

## 46 **Futsal Committee**

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The Futsal Committee shall organise the FIFA Futsal World Cup in compliance with the provisions of the regulations applicable to this competition, the List of Requirements and the Organising Association Agreement, and deal with general issues relating to futsal.

## 47 **Beach Soccer Committee**

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The Beach Soccer Committee shall organise the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in compliance with the provisions of the regulations applicable to this competition, the List of Requirements and the Organising Association Agreement, and deal with general issues relating to beach soccer.

## 48 **Committee for Club Football**

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The Committee for Club Football shall deal with issues relating to the interests of club football worldwide.

## 49 **Organising Committee for the FIFA Club World Cup**

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The Organising Committee for the FIFA Club World Cup shall organise the FIFA Club World Cup in compliance with the provisions of the regulations applicable to this competition, the List of Requirements and the Organising Association Agreement.

## 50 Referees Committee

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The Referees Committee shall implement and interpret the Laws of the Game and may propose amendments to the Laws of the Game to the Executive Committee. It shall appoint the referees and assistant referees for matches in competitions organised by FIFA.

## 51 Football Committee

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The Football Committee shall deal with football matters, particularly the structure of the game and the relationship between clubs, Leagues, Members, Confederations and FIFA, and also analyse the basic aspects of football training and technical development.

## 52 Medical Committee

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The Medical Committee shall deal with all medical aspects of football.

## 53 Development Committee

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The Development Committee shall deal with FIFA's global development programmes. It shall devise and propose appropriate strategies, check these strategies and analyse and monitor support provided to Members and Confederations in this regard.

## 54 **Players' Status Committee**

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1. The Players' Status Committee shall set up and monitor compliance with the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and determine the status of Players for various FIFA competitions. Its powers of jurisdiction are governed by the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
2. It shall also be responsible for the work of the Dispute Resolution Chamber in accordance with the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the Rules Governing the Procedures of the Players' Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber.

## 55 **Legal Committee**

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The Legal Committee shall analyse basic legal issues relating to football and the evolution of the Statutes and regulations of FIFA, the Confederations and Members.

## 56 **Committee for Fair Play and Social Responsibility**

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The Committee for Fair Play and Social Responsibility shall deal with fair play matters, promote the concept of fair play and fight discrimination in football worldwide. It shall also deal with social responsibility and environmental protection matters in connection with FIFA and its activities.

## 57 **Media Committee**

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The Media Committee shall deal with the working conditions for the media at FIFA events and maintain relations with international media organisations.

## 58 Associations Committee

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The Associations Committee shall deal with relations between FIFA and its Members as well as the Members' compliance with the FIFA Statutes and draw up proposals for optimum cooperation. The committee shall also monitor the evolution of the Statutes and regulations of FIFA, the Confederations and Members.

## 59 Marketing and Television Committee

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The Marketing and Television Committee shall advise the Executive Committee with regard to drafting and implementing contracts between FIFA and its various marketing/television partners and analyse marketing and television strategies that have been devised.

## 60 Stadium and Security Committee

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The Stadium and Security Committee shall advise on the development and implementation of modern stadium and security concepts and standards. The committee shall issue and monitor compliance with the FIFA Security Regulations. It shall also monitor relevant developments in the area of stadiums and security.

# 61

## Judicial bodies

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1. The judicial bodies of FIFA 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. The composition of the judicial bodies should respect the fair distribution of positions and take account of the 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 and deputy chairmen of the judicial bodies shall be qualified to practise law. The term of office 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 and deputy chairmen of both chambers of the Ethics Committee shall fulfil the independence criteria as described in the Standing Orders of the Congress.

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

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

7. The decision-making powers of certain committees remain unaffected.

## 62 Disciplinary Committee

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1. The function of the Disciplinary Committee shall be governed by the FIFA Disciplinary Code. The committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, the chairman may rule alone.
2. The Disciplinary Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the FIFA Disciplinary Code on Members, clubs, Officials, Players and match and players' agents.
3. These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members.
4. The Executive Committee shall issue the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

## 63 Ethics Committee

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1. The function of the Ethics Committee shall be governed by the FIFA Code of Ethics. It is divided into an investigatory chamber and an adjudicatory chamber. The adjudicatory chamber shall take decisions if at least three members are present. The chairman may take decisions alone in specific cases.
2. The Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes, the FIFA Code of Ethics and the FIFA Disciplinary Code on Officials, Players and match and players' agents.
3. The Executive Committee shall issue the FIFA Code of Ethics.
4. The investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee shall execute integrity checks for the chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee and for the members of the judicial bodies, and shall prepare a corresponding report, which shall be sent to the Members at least one month before the Congress.

5. The investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee shall review, at least annually, that the independence criteria are met by the chairman and deputy chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee.
6. The Audit and Compliance Committee shall conduct the reviews as set out above in respect of candidates for the offices of chairmen, deputy chairmen or members, or the incumbent chairmen, deputy chairmen or members of both chambers of the Ethics Committee.
7. The procedure concerning integrity checks (par. 4-6 of this article) shall be stipulated in the Organisation Regulations of FIFA.

## 64 Appeal Committee

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1. The function of the Appeal Committee shall be governed by the FIFA Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Code of Ethics. The committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, 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 FIFA regulations.
3. Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee shall be irrevocable and binding on all the parties concerned. This provision is subject to appeals lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).



# 65

## Disciplinary Measures

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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 a match;
  - f) expulsion;
  - g) a forfeit;
  - h) deduction of points;
  - i) relegation to a lower division;
  - j) replaying a match.

## 66 Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

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1. FIFA recognises the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland) to resolve disputes between FIFA, Members, Confederations, Leagues, clubs, Players, Officials and licensed match agents and players' agents.
2. The provisions of the CAS Code of Sports-Related Arbitration shall apply to the proceedings. CAS shall primarily apply the various regulations of FIFA and, additionally, Swiss law.

## 67 Jurisdiction of CAS

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1. Appeals against final decisions passed by FIFA's legal bodies and against decisions passed by Confederations, Members or Leagues shall be lodged with CAS within 21 days of notification of the decision in question.
2. Recourse may only be made to CAS after all other internal channels have been exhausted.
3. CAS, however, does not deal with appeals arising from:
  - a) violations of the Laws of the Game;
  - b) suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months (with the exception of doping decisions);
  - c) decisions against which an appeal to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognised under the rules of an Association or Confederation may be made.

4. The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect. The appropriate FIFA body or, alternatively, CAS may order the appeal to have a suspensive effect.
5. FIFA is entitled to appeal to CAS against any internally final and binding doping-related decision passed by the Confederations, Members or Leagues under the terms of par. 1 and par. 2 above.
6. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is entitled to appeal to CAS against any internally final and binding doping-related decision passed by FIFA, the Confederations, Members or Leagues under the terms of par. 1 and par. 2 above.
7. Any internally final and binding doping-related decision passed by the Confederations, Members or Leagues shall be sent immediately to FIFA and WADA by the body passing that decision. The time allowed for FIFA or WADA to lodge an appeal begins upon receipt by FIFA or WADA, respectively, of the internally final and binding decision in an official FIFA language.

## 68 **Obligation**

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1. The Confederations, Members and Leagues shall agree to recognise CAS as an independent judicial authority and to ensure that their members, affiliated Players and Officials comply with the decisions passed by CAS. The same obligation shall apply to licensed match and players' agents.
2. Recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited unless specifically provided for in the FIFA regulations. Recourse to ordinary courts of law for all types of provisional measures is also prohibited.
3. The Associations shall insert a clause in their statutes or regulations, stipulating that it is prohibited to take disputes in the Association or disputes affecting Leagues, members of Leagues, clubs, members of clubs, Players, Officials and other Association Officials to ordinary courts of law, unless the FIFA regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate

recourse to ordinary courts of law. Instead of recourse to ordinary courts of law, provision shall be made for arbitration. Such disputes shall be taken to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognised under the rules of the Association or Confederation or to CAS.

The Associations shall also ensure that this stipulation is implemented in the Association, if necessary by imposing a binding obligation on its members. The Associations shall impose sanctions on any party that fails to respect this obligation and ensure that any appeal against such sanctions shall likewise be strictly submitted to arbitration, and not to ordinary courts of law.

## 69 Principle

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1. The Confederations, Members and Leagues shall agree to comply fully with any decisions passed by the relevant FIFA bodies which, according to these Statutes, are final and not subject to appeal.
2. They shall take every precaution necessary to ensure that their own members, Players and Officials comply with these decisions.
3. The same obligation applies to licensed match and players' agents.

## 70 Sanctions

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Any violation of the foregoing provisions will be punished in compliance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

## 71 General secretariat

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The general secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of FIFA under the direction of the Secretary General.

## 72 Secretary General

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1. The Secretary General is the chief executive of the general secretariat.
2. He shall be appointed on the basis of an agreement governed by private law.
3. He shall be responsible for:
  - a) implementing decisions passed by the Congress and Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
  - b) managing and keeping the accounts of FIFA properly;
  - c) compiling the minutes for the meetings of the Congress, Executive Committee, Emergency Committee and standing and ad-hoc committees;
  - d) FIFA's correspondence;
  - e) relations with the Confederations, Members and committees;
  - f) organising the general secretariat;

**g)** the appointment and dismissal of staff working in the general secretariat.

**h)** signing decisions on behalf of any FIFA committee, provided that no other ruling exists in the respective regulations.

**4.** The President shall appoint the managerial staff (directors) in the general secretariat on the proposal of the Secretary General.

## 73 Financial period

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1. The financial period of FIFA shall be four years and shall begin on each 1 January in the year following the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™.
2. The revenue and expenditure of FIFA shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. FIFA's major duties in the future shall be guaranteed through the creation of reserves.
3. The Secretary General is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of FIFA with its subsidiaries as at 31 December.

## 74 Auditors

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The auditors shall audit the accounts approved by the Finance Committee and present a report to the Congress. The auditors shall be appointed for a period of four years. This mandate may be renewed.

## 75 Membership subscriptions

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1. Membership subscriptions are due on 1 January of each year. 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 were 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 1,000.



## 76 Settlement

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FIFA may debit any Member's account to settle claims.

## 77 Levies

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1. Members shall pay FIFA a levy for every international match played between two "A" representative teams. Matches played as part of the Olympic Football Tournaments shall be regarded as international matches. The levy shall be calculated in compliance with the provisions in the Regulations Governing International Matches on the basis of the gross revenue and shall be payable by the Member in whose country the match is being played.
2. FIFA may demand a levy on international matches involving scratch teams in compliance with the provisions in the Regulations Governing International Matches.
3. The Confederations may demand their own levy independently of FIFA, in accordance with the Confederations' statutes and regulations.
4. Members may demand their own levy on matches played in their territory, independently of FIFA and their Confederation, in accordance with the Members' statutes and regulations.

## 78 Rights

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1. FIFA, its Members and the Confederations 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, place and law. 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. The Executive Committee shall alone decide whether these rights shall be utilised exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.

## 79 Authorisation

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1. FIFA, its Members and the Confederations 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, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and technical and legal aspects.
2. The Executive Committee shall issue special regulations to this end.

## A. FIFA FINAL COMPETITIONS

# 80

## Venue

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1. The Executive Committee shall decide the venue for the final competitions organised by FIFA. As a rule, tournaments may not be held on the same continent on two successive occasions. The Executive Committee shall issue guidelines in this connection.
2. The FIFA World Cup™ regulations shall stipulate that a certain amount of the gross revenue shall be utilised for development purposes.

## B. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

### 81 International match calendar

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The Executive Committee shall compile an international match calendar that shall be binding upon the Confederations, Members and Leagues, after conferring with the Confederations.

### 82 International matches and competitions

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1. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for issuing regulations for organising international matches and competitions between representative teams and between Leagues, club and/or scratch teams. No such match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of FIFA, the Confederations and/or the Members in accordance with the Regulations Governing International Matches.
2. The Executive Committee may issue further provisions for such matches and competitions.
3. The Executive Committee shall determine any criteria for authorising line-ups that are not covered by the Regulations Governing International Matches.
4. Notwithstanding the authorisation competences as set forth in the Regulations Governing International Matches, FIFA may take the final decision on the authorisation of any international match or competition.

## 83 **Contacts**

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1. Players and teams affiliated to Members or provisional members of the Confederations may not play matches or make sporting contacts with players or teams that are not affiliated to Members or provisional members of the Confederations without the approval of FIFA.
2. Members and their clubs may not play on the territory of another Member without the latter's approval.

## 84 **Authorisation**

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Associations, Leagues or clubs that are affiliated to a Member may only join another Member or take part in competitions on that Member's territory under exceptional circumstances. In each case, authorisation must be given by both Members, the respective Confederation(s) and by FIFA.

## 85 Unforeseen contingencies and force majeure

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The Executive Committee shall have the final decision on any matters not provided for in these Statutes or in cases of force majeure.

## 86 Dissolution

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If FIFA is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to the supreme court of the country in which its headquarters are situated. It shall hold these assets in trust as “bonus pater familiae” until FIFA is re-established.

## 87 Enforcement

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These Statutes were adopted at the Congress in Budapest on 25 May 2012 and come into force on 25 July 2012.

The judicial bodies, the Audit and Compliance Committee and the Representative of Women’s Football shall be elected for the first time at the 2013 FIFA Congress. At the 2012 FIFA Congress, the Executive Committee shall present to the Congress for ratification the names of the individuals proposed to serve as the chairmen of the Audit and Compliance Committee and of both chambers of the Ethics Committee until the 2013 Congress. If any of the individuals proposed is not ratified by the Congress or resigns during the term of office before the 2013 Congress, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement. In the event of an election at the 2013 Congress, the incumbent office-holder’s first one-year term of office shall not be taken into account. Until the 2013 Congress, the Executive Committee shall be responsible for appointing the deputy chairman and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee, the deputy chairmen and members of both chambers of the Ethics

Committee, the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee as well as the Representative of Women's Football.

Budapest, 25 May 2012

For the FIFA Executive Committee

President

Joseph S. Blatter

Secretary General

Jérôme Valcke

## REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE STATUTES

### **1** Application for admission

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The Executive Committee may lay down the procedure for admission in special regulations.

### **2** Confederations

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1. The Executive Committee shall decide whether the Association fulfils the requirements for admission to FIFA based on the Confederation's final report.
2. If the requirements have been fulfilled, the next Congress shall decide whether to admit the Association or not.



# 3

## Match agents

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1. Match agents may be employed to arrange matches.
2. Match agents hired to organise matches between teams from the same Confederation shall be recognised by the Confederation concerned (licensed). The Confederation shall issue appropriate rules.
3. Match agents hired to organise matches between teams from different Confederations shall hold a FIFA licence. The Executive Committee shall issue appropriate rules.
4. FIFA is only entitled to intervene to enforce the contracts concluded between match agents and teams in the following cases:
  - a) if the match or tournament at the source of the dispute involves teams from different Confederations;
  - b) if the match agent in question holds a FIFA licence.

# 4

## Players' agents

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Players may use the services of agents to negotiate transfers. Only players' agents in possession of a licence may carry out this work. The Executive Committee shall issue appropriate provisions to this end.

## 5 Principle

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1. Any person holding a permanent nationality that is not dependent on residence in a certain country is eligible to play for the representative teams of the Association of that country.
2. With the exception of the conditions specified in article 8 below, any Player who has already participated in a match (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category or any type of football for one Association may not play an international match for a representative team of another Association.

## 6 Nationality entitling players to represent more than one Association

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1. A Player who, under the terms of art. 5, is eligible to represent more than one Association on account of his nationality, may play in an international match for one of these Associations only if, in addition to having the relevant nationality, he fulfils at least one of the following conditions:
  - a) He was born on the territory of the relevant Association;
  - b) His biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant Association;
  - c) His grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant Association;
  - d) He has lived continuously on the territory of the relevant Association for at least two years.

2. Regardless of par. 1 above, Associations sharing a common nationality may make an agreement under which item (d) of par. 1 of this article is deleted completely or amended to specify a longer time limit. Such agreements shall be lodged with and approved by the Executive Committee.

## 7

### Acquisition of a new nationality

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Any Player who refers to art. 5 par. 1 to assume a new nationality and who has not played international football in accordance with art. 5 par. 2 shall be eligible to play for the new representative team only if he fulfils one of the following conditions:

- a) He was born on the territory of the relevant Association;
- b) His biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant Association;
- c) His grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant Association;
- d) He has lived continuously for at least five years after reaching the age of 18 on the territory of the relevant Association.

## 8

### Change of Association

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1. If a Player has more than one nationality, or if a Player acquires a new nationality, or if a Player is eligible to play for several representative teams due to nationality, he may, only once, request to change the Association for which he is eligible to play international matches to the Association of another country of which he holds nationality, subject to the following conditions:

**a)** He has not played a match (either in full or in part) in an official competition at "A" international level for his current Association, and at the time of his first full or partial appearance in an international match in an official competition for his current Association, he already had the nationality of the representative team for which he wishes to play.

**b)** He is not permitted to play for his new Association in any competition in which he has already played for his previous Association.

**2.** If a Player who has been fielded by his Association in an international match in accordance with art. 5 par. 2 permanently loses the nationality of that country without his consent or against his will due to a decision by a government authority, he may request permission to play for another Association whose nationality he already has or has acquired.

**3.** Any Player who has the right to change Associations in accordance with par. 1 and 2 above shall submit a written, substantiated request to the FIFA general secretariat. The Players' Status Committee shall decide on the request. The procedure will be in accordance with the Rules Governing the Procedures of the Players' Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber. Once the Player has filed his request, he is not eligible to play for any representative team until his request has been processed.

# 9

## Principle of promotion and relegation

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- 1.** A club's entitlement to take part in a domestic league championship shall depend principally on sporting merit. A club shall qualify for a domestic league championship by remaining in a certain division or by being promoted or relegated to another at the end of a season.
  
- 2.** In addition to qualification on sporting merit, a club's participation in a domestic league championship may be subject to other criteria within the scope of the licensing procedure, whereby the emphasis is on sporting, infrastructural, administrative, legal and financial considerations. Licensing decisions must be able to be examined by the Member's body of appeal.
  
- 3.** Altering the legal form or company structure of a club to facilitate its qualification on sporting merit and/or its receipt of a licence for a domestic league championship, to the detriment of the integrity of a sports competition, is prohibited. This includes, for example, changing the headquarters, changing the name or transferring stakeholdings between different clubs. Prohibitive decisions must be able to be examined by the Member's body of appeal.
  
- 4.** Each Member is responsible for deciding national issues, which may not be delegated to the Leagues. Each Confederation is responsible for deciding issues involving more than one Association concerning its own territory. FIFA is responsible for deciding international issues involving more than one Confederation.

# 10 Amendments to the Laws

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- 1.** FIFA shall notify its Members of any amendments and decisions regarding the Laws of the Game within one month of the ordinary annual meeting of IFAB.
- 2.** The Members shall enforce these amendments and decisions no later than 1 July following IFAB's annual meeting. Exceptions may be granted only to Members whose football season has not terminated by this date.
- 3.** Members may apply such amendments and decisions as soon as they have been issued by IFAB.

## 11 Nomination

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1. Each referee and assistant referee appointed to an international match shall belong to a neutral Member unless otherwise previously agreed by the Members concerned.
2. The referee and assistant referees chosen to officiate at an international match shall be included in the official FIFA List of International Referees and Assistant Referees.

## 12 Report

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1. The referee of every international "A" match shall send a report within 48 hours of the match both to FIFA and the Member on whose territory the match was played.
2. This report shall be made on the official form given to the referee by the Member under whose jurisdiction the match was played.
3. The report shall record all the disciplinary measures taken and the reasons for these measures.

# 13 Reimbursement

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**1.** Referees and assistant referees at international matches shall be entitled to:

- a)** a daily allowance;
- b)** reimbursement of travel expenses.

FIFA's Expenses Regulations shall determine the amounts, travel category and number of days due for reimbursement to which referees and assistant referees are entitled.

**2.** The amount owed to the referees and assistant referees shall be paid to them in an easily convertible currency on the same day as the match by the organising Member.

**3.** The expenses for hotel and board incurred by referees and assistant referees of international matches shall be borne by the organising Member.



## 14 Objectives

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1. FIFA shall ensure that its objectives are achieved and secured solely by using suitable material and human resources either of its own or by delegating to Members or Confederations or by working with the Confederations in accordance with the FIFA Statutes.
2. With reference to art. 2 (e) of the FIFA Statutes, FIFA shall take action especially, but not exclusively, against irregular betting activities, doping and racism. These activities are prohibited and subject to sanctions.

## 15 Enforcement

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The Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes were adopted at the Congress in Budapest on 25 May 2012 and come into force on 25 July 2012.

Budapest, 25 May 2012

For the FIFA Executive Committee

President  
Joseph S. Blatter

Secretary General  
Jérôme Valcke

# 1

## Participation in the Congress

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1. Each Member may be represented at the Congress by a maximum of three delegates, all of whom may take part in the debates.
2. The names of the delegates, including the one with the right to vote, shall be notified to the general secretariat before the opening of the Congress. The general secretariat enters the delegates mentioned on to a list (numbered 1 to 3). The delegate with the right to vote is entered as number 1. If the delegate with the right to vote leaves the Congress during the debates, the delegate entered as number 2 on the Member's delegation list is entitled to vote. If this delegate is also absent, the delegate entered as number 3 is entitled to vote.
3. FIFA shall bear the costs of travel and accommodation for three delegates of each Member taking part in the Congress. The Executive Committee shall issue appropriate directives in this connection.

# 2

## Chair

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1. The President shall chair the Congress. If the President is unable to attend, the longest serving vice-president available shall deputise. If none of the vice-presidents is present, the Congress shall elect a member of the Executive Committee as chairman.
2. The chair shall ensure that the Congress is conducted in strict compliance with these Standing Orders, open and close the Congress and debates, and, unless the Congress decides otherwise, grant delegates permission to speak and conduct all discussions.

**3.** The chair shall be responsible for maintaining order during debates. He may take the following action against any Congress participant who disturbs the debates:

- a)** a call to order;
- b)** a reprimand;
- c)** exclusion from one or more sessions.

**4.** If an appeal is made against such action, the Congress shall decide immediately without debate.

## 3

### Scrutineers

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At the beginning of the first session, the Congress shall appoint an adequate number of scrutineers to count the votes and to assist the Secretary General in distributing and counting voting papers issued for the elections. The Executive Committee may decide to use electronic equipment to determine the results of a vote.

## 4

### Interpreters

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Official interpreters shall be appointed to translate into the official languages of the Congress. They shall be appointed by the Secretary General.

## 5 Debates

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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 Member that requested the item be included in the agenda.
2. The chair then opens the debate.

## 6 Speakers

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1. Permission to speak is granted in the order in which it is requested. A speaker may not begin speaking until he has obtained permission to do so. Speakers shall address the Congress from the rostrum intended for this purpose.
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.

# 7

## Proposals

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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.
2. Any amendment shall be drawn up in writing and passed to the chair before being put to the debate.

# 8

## Procedural motions and closing of debates

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1. If a procedural motion is made, discussion on the main question shall be suspended until a vote has been taken on the motion.
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 Members who have asked to speak before the vote was taken.
3. The chair shall close the discussion unless the Congress decides otherwise by a simple majority of those voting.

# 9

## Votes

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1. Voting by secret ballot is prohibited.
2. Before each vote, the chair, or the person designated by him, shall read the text of the proposal aloud and explain the voting procedure (quorum) to the Congress. If an objection is raised, the Congress shall decide immediately.
3. Votes may be taken by roll call if requested by at least 15 of the Members present and entitled to vote.
4. No-one is compelled to vote.
5. As a rule, votes are taken by a show of hands (voting cards) or by the use of electronic equipment.
6. Proposals shall be put to the vote in the order in which they are submitted. If there are more than two main proposals, they shall be put to the vote in succession and the delegates may not vote for more than one of the proposals.
7. Alterations to amendments shall be put to the vote before the amendments proper, and amendments before the main proposal.
8. Proposals without a vote against are regarded as having been passed.
9. The chair shall check the results of the vote and announce it to the Congress.
10. No-one is permitted to speak during the vote and until after the result has been announced.

# 10 Elections

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- 1.** Elections shall be carried out by secret ballot with ballot papers or by using televoters, electronic vote counters that guarantee the secrecy of the election. Elections of the President shall not be carried out by using televoters. The Secretary General, assisted by the scrutineers, shall conduct the distribution and counting of the ballot papers or the distribution and evaluation of the televoters.
- 2.** The number of ballot papers that have been distributed shall be announced by the chair before the count.
- 3.** If the number of ballot papers returned is equal to or less than the number of ballot papers distributed, the election shall be declared valid. If the number returned exceeds that of the ballot papers distributed, the vote shall be declared null and void and another vote shall be taken immediately.
- 4.** The absolute majority shall be calculated on the basis of the number of valid ballot papers collected. Empty ballot papers or invalid votes are disregarded. If two or more votes are given in support of one candidate on one ballot paper, only one vote shall be valid.
- 5.** The chair shall announce the result of each ballot.
- 6.** The Secretary General shall put the ballot papers that have been collected and counted into envelopes intended for this purpose and seal them immediately. The general secretariat shall keep these envelopes and destroy them 100 days after the end of the Congress.

# 11 Independence

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**1.** A candidate for the office of chairman or deputy chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee or of either of the two chambers of the Ethics Committee shall not be considered independent if, at any time during the four years preceding his term, he 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 FIFA and/or any Member, Confederation, League or club (including any of their affiliated companies/organisations);
- was employed by FIFA's outside legal counsel or by FIFA's auditor (and was engaged in auditing FIFA);
- held any paid or voluntary position with a non-profit organisation to which FIFA and/or any Member, Confederation, League or club makes annual payments in excess of USD 100,000.

**2.** Details are stipulated in the Organisation Regulations of FIFA.

# 12 Integrity check

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The President, the Representative of Women's Football, the members of the Audit and Compliance Committee and the members of a judicial body who require election by the Congress shall be subjected to a prior integrity check by the investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee. The integrity check shall be conducted again prior to a re-election or extension of the mandate. The Audit and Compliance Committee shall conduct the aforementioned integrity check for the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of both chambers of the Ethics Committee.



# 13 Enforcement

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These Standing Orders of the Congress were adopted by the Congress in Budapest on 25 May 2012 and come into force on 25 July 2012.

Budapest, 25 May 2012

For the FIFA Executive Committee

President

Joseph S. Blatter

Secretary General

Jérôme Valcke





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