



AFC STATUTES

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

Edition 2013

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Definitions

In interpreting these Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress:

1. “Confederation” or “AFC” means “the Asian Football Confederation”.
2. “FIFA” means “the Federation Internationale de Football Association”.
3. “Member Association” means “a National Association which is a member of the AFC”.
4. “National Association” means “the controlling body for football within a country or territory”.
5. “Congress” means “the supreme and legislative body of the AFC”.
6. “Executive Committee” means “the executive body of the AFC”.
7. “Committee” means “any Committee of the AFC as constituted in accordance with the Statutes”.
8. “Officials” means “all office bearers and members of various Committees, managers, coaches, trainers, match officials, medical officials, staff and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in the AFC, National Associations, Leagues or Clubs”.
9. “Association Football” means “the game of football as regulated by the Laws of The Game and controlled by FIFA”.
10. “Football” means, as the context requires, “any or all types of football including without limitation futsal and beach soccer”.
11. “Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress” means “rules and regulations promulgated by the Congress”.
12. “Regulations” means “rules, regulations, codes, instructions and directives as promulgated by the Executive Committee”.
13. “League” means “a professional league and/or amateur league which consists of a combination of clubs within the territory of a National Association and which is subordinate to and under the authority of that National Association”.
14. “Regional Association” means “an organisation subordinate to a National Association”.

15. "Club" means "a professional club or an amateur club which participates in Leagues or competitions under the auspices of a National Association".
16. "Player" means "a professional or amateur football player registered with a National Association".
17. "IFAB" means "the International Football Association Board".
18. "CAS (TAS)" means "Court of Arbitration for Sport (Tribunal Arbitral du Sport) in Lausanne (Switzerland)".
19. "Simple majority" means "more than 50 percent".

NB: Unless the context otherwise requires, references to natural persons include both genders and the singular case applies to the plural and vice-versa.

ARTICLE 1. TITLE, LEGAL FORM, HEADQUARTERS, LANGUAGE

1. The organisation shall be called “The Asian Football Confederation” or “AFC”.
2. AFC is an association registered under Section 7 of the Societies Act 1966 of the laws of Malaysia.
3. AFC is a Confederation recognised by FIFA.
4. The headquarters of the AFC shall be in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and may only be transferred by a resolution of the Congress.
5. The official languages of the AFC shall be English and Arabic. In the event of any differences in the interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

ARTICLE 2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the AFC are:

1. to improve the game of Football constantly and promote, regulate and control it in the territory of Asia in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
2. to foster friendly relationships between and amongst National Associations, confederations, FIFA and other organisations;
3. to control all types of Football, ensure compliance and prevent infringements of the Statutes, Codes, Rules, Regulations, Standing Orders, directives and decisions of FIFA, AFC and Laws of the Game;
4. to organise and manage international Football competitions at Asian level;
5. to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
6. to protect the interests of its Member Associations;
7. to prevent the introduction of improper methods and practices which might jeopardize the integrity of matches or competitions, or give rise to the abuse of Football;
8. to institute strong measures and campaigns against bribery, corruption, drugs and racism in Football;
9. to settle disputes between and amongst Players, Officials, Clubs, Member Associations, AFC and other organisations;
10. to ensure that its representatives in FIFA actively represent the collective views of the AFC and do so in the true spirit of Asian solidarity;

11. to disseminate information on the AFC and FIFA activities;
12. to raise funds, purchase or hold any asset for the benefit of, or reinvestment in all levels and areas of Football.

ARTICLE 3. NEUTRALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

1. The AFC is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
2. 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.

ARTICLE 4. PROMOTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS

1. AFC shall promote friendly relations between its Member Associations, Clubs, Officials and Players and in society for humanitarian objectives.
2. Every person and organisation involved in the game of Football is obliged to observe the Statutes, Regulations and the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.
3. AFC shall, in accordance with these Statutes, provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any dispute that may arise between Member Associations, Clubs, Officials and Players in Asia.

ARTICLE 5. LAWS OF THE GAME

The AFC and Member Associations shall organize and/or play:

1. 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. Futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA Executive Committee.
3. Beach Soccer in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA Executive Committee.
4. any other type of football in accordance with the relevant Laws of the Game for that type of football issued by the competent FIFA body.

ARTICLE 6. CONDUCT OF BODIES AND OFFICIALS

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

ARTICLE 7. ADMISSION, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

1. The Congress shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member Association except where the authority is given to the Executive Committee in accordance with these Statutes.
2. Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of the AFC as specified in these Statutes.
3. Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member Association from its due financial obligations towards the AFC or other Member Association of the AFC, but leads to cancellation of all rights in relation to the AFC.

ARTICLE 8. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership shall be open to National Associations in Asia.
2. A National Association that is situated in another continent may be admitted to membership provided that it is not a member of any other confederation. However, such a membership to the AFC must be in accordance with the FIFA Statutes.
3. Only one National Association shall be officially recognised in each country or territory.
4. Membership shall be Ordinary, Provisional or Associate.
 - a) “Ordinary Membership” may be granted by the Congress to an association which is a member of FIFA.
 - b) “Provisional Membership” may be granted by the Executive Committee to a new applicant for a minimum period of two years.
 - c) “Associate Membership” may be granted by the Executive Committee for a specific period of time to any National Association which does not fulfill the criteria to be a Member of FIFA in accordance with the applicable FIFA statutes.
5. “Provisional” and “Associate” members shall be entitled to all the privileges of a Member Association except the right to vote at the Congress or the Extraordinary Congress and to hold office.

6. AFC shall accept a National Association as a “Provisional” or “Ordinary” member in conformity with FIFA Statutes provided all concerned parties are in agreement.
7. All applications for membership shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the AFC to the General Secretariat of the AFC.
8. The application must be accompanied by the following mandatory items:
 - a) a copy of the applicant’s legally valid statutes and regulations;
 - b) a declaration that it will always comply with the Statutes, Codes, Regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA and the 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 recognises the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, as specified in these Statutes;
 - e) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;
 - f) a list of Officials, specifying those who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with the AFC;
 - g) a declaration that it recognises the right of the AFC in controlling matches and competitions between National Association teams and between Leagues and/ or Club teams from different Member Associations in the AFC territory;
 - h) a copy of the minutes of its last congress or constitutional meeting.
9. This article shall not affect the status of existing Member Associations.

10. The existing Ordinary Member Associations shall be divided into four zones, namely: West, South & Central, ASEAN and East as follows:

WEST	SOUTH & CENTRAL	ASEAN	EAST
Bahrain	Afghanistan	Australia	China PR
Iraq	Bangladesh	Brunei	Chinese Taipei
Jordan	Bhutan	Cambodia	DPR Korea
Kuwait	India	East Timor	Guam
Lebanon	IR Iran	Indonesia	Hong Kong
Oman	Kyrgyzstan	Laos	Japan
Palestine	Maldives	Malaysia	Korea Republic
Qatar	Nepal	Myanmar	Macau
Saudi Arabia	Pakistan	Philippines	Mongolia
Syria	Sri Lanka	Singapore	
UAE	Tajikistan	Thailand	
Yemen	Turkmenistan	Vietnam	
	Uzbekistan		
12	13	12	9

TOTAL: 46 Ordinary Member Associations

ARTICLE 9. REQUEST AND PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

1. The procedure for admission shall be regulated by the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes adopted by the Congress.
2. 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.
3. The new Member Association shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted. Delegates representing Ordinary Members are eligible to vote with immediate effect provided that the delegate with the right to vote has been identified to the AFC General Secretariat under the procedure set out in Article 20.

ARTICLE 10. RIGHTS OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

1. The Member Associations have the following rights:
 - a) to take part in the Congress, to know 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 all bodies of the AFC that are subject to election;
 - d) to be informed of the affairs of the AFC through the official bodies of the AFC;
 - e) to take part in the AFC competitions, through their representative teams and clubs, and/or other activities or programmes organised by the AFC;
 - f) to benefit from the rights and privileges granted to them by these Statutes and applicable Regulations.
2. The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and applicable Regulations.

ARTICLE 11. OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

1. Member Associations have the following obligations:
 - a) to comply fully with the Statutes, Codes, Rules and Regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA and the AFC at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
 - b) to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies;
 - c) to take part in competitions and other activities or programmes organised by the AFC;

- d) to pay their membership subscriptions;
- e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by IFAB 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 and the AFC shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate arbitration tribunal recognised by the AFC and that any recourse to ordinary courts is prohibited;
- g) to communicate to the AFC any amendment of its Statutes, Rules and Regulations in English as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorised signatories, with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with the AFC;
- h) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised by FIFA and the AFC or with Member Associations 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 8 paragraph 8 for the duration of their membership;
- k) to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;
- l) to apply a club licensing system according to the minimum requirement set by the AFC from time to time. Member Associations shall include such an obligation and define the licensing bodies in their Statutes;
- m) to recognise each of the other Member Associations as the sole controlling body of football in their respective countries and territories;
- n) not to form themselves into regional associations or federations without the consent of FIFA and the AFC;
- o) to regulate all Leagues and Clubs which exist within their geographical territory;
- p) to be held responsible for the good conduct and all financial commitments of their Clubs towards the AFC and FIFA;
- q) to notify FIFA and the AFC promptly of any change in its address and in the name of principal office bearers;

- r) to manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third party, even if the third party influence was not the fault of the Member concerned.
2. Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member Association may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes.

ARTICLE 12. SUSPENSION

1. The Congress is responsible for suspending a Member Association. The Executive Committee may, however, suspend a Member Association that seriously and repeatedly violates its obligations as a Member Association with immediate effect. The suspension shall last until the next Congress, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime.
2. A Member Association may in particular be suspended if state authorities interfere in its affairs in such a significant way that:
 - a) it may no longer be considered as fully responsible for the organisation of football-related matters in its territory;
 - b) it is no longer in a position to perform its statutory tasks in an appropriate manner;
 - c) the smooth running of a competition organised under its auspices is no longer guaranteed; or
 - d) the free election of its executive organ is no longer ensured.
3. 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.
4. A suspended Member Association shall lose its membership rights. Other Member Associations may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member Association. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.
5. Member Associations which do not participate in at least two (2) of the AFC's competitions (as specified in Article 71.2) over a period of two (2) consecutive years immediately prior to a Congress shall be suspended from voting at the Congress until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

ARTICLE 13. EXPULSIONS

1. The Congress may expel a Member Association if:
 - a) it fails to fulfill its financial obligations towards the AFC;
 - b) it seriously violates its own Statutes, Codes, Rules, Regulations and Standing Orders or those of the AFC or FIFA;
 - c) it ceases to have the legal status of a National Association in its own country or territory;
 - d) it ceases to be a member of FIFA.
2. To be passed, the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarter majority of the valid votes cast.

ARTICLE 14. RESIGNATIONS

1. Subject to Article 14.2, a Member Association may resign from the AFC 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. Resignation shall not affect any existing financial obligations towards the AFC or its Member Associations.

ARTICLE 15. STATUS AND RECOGNITION OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

1. The executive body of a Member Association shall be elected by the congress, even on an interim basis, within the Association. The statutes of a Member Association shall provide for an election procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election.
2. AFC may not recognise the executive body of a Member Association, even on an interim basis, if it has not been elected in accordance with Article 15.1, except if the executive body is established as a normalization committee by FIFA, in consultation with AFC.
3. Only decisions passed by bodies that have been constituted in accordance with Article 15.2 may be recognised by the AFC.

ARTICLE 16. STATUS OF CLUBS, LEAGUES, REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER GROUPS OF STAKE HOLDERS AFFILIATED TO A MEMBER ASSOCIATION

1. Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations or any other groups of stake holders affiliated to a Member Association shall be subordinate to and recognised by that Member Association. The Member Association statutes shall define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these Clubs and groups. Their statutes and regulations must be approved by the Member Association.
2. Every Member Association shall ensure that its affiliated Clubs and groups 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, the Member Association shall ensure that no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) exercise third-party control over more than one Club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

ARTICLE 17. HONORARY APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS

I. Honorary Appointment

1. Congress may confer the following Honorary appointment on individuals for meritorious services rendered to the AFC upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee:
 - a) Honorary President;
 - b) Honorary Vice President;
 - c) Honorary Member.
2. Honorary officials may attend and participate in Congress without the right to vote.

II. AFC Diamond of Asia Award

1. The AFC Diamond of Asia Award is the most prestigious and honoured AFC Award.
2. The AFC Executive Committee may confer the AFC Diamond of Asia Award to individuals who have rendered meritorious services to the development and promotion of football in the Asian Continent, both at the Member Association and AFC level.

3. The AFC Executive Committee will nominate the eligible candidates for this award.
4. Should there be different names put forward, the AFC Executive Committee will delegate to a sub-committee. The sub-committee will be responsible for providing a shortlist with recommendations to the AFC Executive Committee.
5. The award, however, may not be presented if the AFC Executive Committee decides there is no suitable candidate in any given year.
6. The selection criteria for the Diamond of Asia Award shall be based on the following:
 - a) Outstanding achievement in Football, leadership ability and community involvement;
 - b) The individual will have to be free of any major disciplinary sanctions or suspensions.
7. The recipients of this award will enjoy a distinguished position within the AFC, and will be entitled to special privileges, including:
 - a) Invitations to AFC competitions (specifically opening and final matches);
 - b) Invitations to AFC official functions and events.

III. Distinguished Service Awards

The Executive Committee may confer Distinguished Service Awards in the following categories to Executive Committee Members and/or Board Members and/or coach(es) and/or Referee(s) and those who have rendered meritorious services to the development and promotion of football in the Asian Continent, both at the Member Association and AFC level:

- a) individuals who have served 30 years or more may be awarded the AFC Gold Star;
 - b) individuals who have served 20 years or more may be awarded the AFC Silver Star;
 - c) individuals who have served 10 years or more may be awarded the AFC Bronze Star.
- IV.** The Executive Committee may confer Awards on long serving staff of AFC. To qualify for the award, the staff must have been in employment with the AFC for a minimum of ten (10) years.

V. The AFC Century Award

1. The Executive Committee may confer the AFC Century Award to Players who have participated in one hundred or more International 'A' Matches (excluding friendly matches) for their country.
2. The selection criteria for the AFC Century Award shall be based on the following:
 - a) Member Associations must submit nominations every year on Players who have played a minimum of one hundred matches;
 - b) Nomination must be submitted together with the relevant documents in support including but not limited to the Player's list of all matches that he/she participated in.

VI. The AFC Abdullah Al Dabal Award

1. The Most Valuable Player of the Match (wherever it is applicable) and the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament (wherever it is applicable) shall be awarded the "Abdullah Al Dabal Award".
2. This Award shall only be open to participants in AFC Men's competitions.

ARTICLE 18. BODIES

1. The Congress is the supreme and legislative body of the AFC.
2. The Executive Committee is the executive body of the AFC.
3. The General Secretariat is the administrative body of the AFC.
4. The Standing and Ad Hoc Committees shall assist the Executive Committee in the performance of its duties in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes, Rules and Regulations. Their duties, composition and function are defined in these Statutes and/or special Regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee which shall be in line with these Statutes.
5. The judicial bodies are the Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee and Ethics Committee (if established). The responsibilities and functions of the Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Committee shall be stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary Code and those of the Ethics Committee shall be stipulated in the AFC Code of Ethics. The Disciplinary Code and Code of Ethics are promulgated by the Executive Committee.
6. AFC may from time to time establish other bodies which it deems necessary for the development of football in Asia.

7. The bodies of the AFC shall be either elected or appointed by the AFC itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes.

ARTICLE 19. DEFINITION AND COMPOSITION OF THE CONGRESS

1. The Congress is the meeting at which all of the Member Associations of AFC convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of the AFC. 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 officials appointed in accordance with Article 17.1 may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

ARTICLE 20. DELEGATES AND VOTING

1. Each Member Association shall have one (1) vote and is entitled to be represented by a maximum of three (3) delegates to participate in the Congress. One of the three (3) delegates shall exercise the right to vote on behalf of the Member Association.
2. The names of the three delegates must reach the General Secretariat at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the Congress indicating the delegate authorised to vote.
3. No delegate shall be allowed to represent more than one Member Association. Only the authorised delegates who are present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
4. Delegates must belong to the Member Association that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member Association. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request. During their term of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed as delegates for their Member Association.
5. The Executive Committee may at its discretion invite any person or persons to the Congress who may attend and participate in the Congress without voting rights.
6. The Executive Committee and the General Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights.

ARTICLE 21. AREA OF AUTHORITY

The Congress has the following authority:

- a) adopting or amending the Statutes, Regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress;
- b) appointing three (3) members to check the minutes and approving the minutes of the last meeting;
- c) electing the Executive Committee (cf. Article 31);
- d) appointing the scrutineers;
- e) approving the financial statements;
- f) approving the budget;
- g) approving the General Secretary's activity report;
- h) appointing the independent auditors upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- i) fixing the membership subscriptions;
- j) deciding, upon the nomination of the Executive Committee, whether to confer the titles of honorary and awards;
- k) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member;
- l) revoking the mandate of one or a number of members of a body of AFC;
- m) dissolving AFC;
- n) consider and act upon proposals submitted by a Member or the Executive Committee in accordance with these Statutes.

ARTICLE 22. QUORUM OF THE CONGRESS

1. The quorum for the Congress shall be the simple majority of the Member Associations who are entitled to vote.
2. If a quorum is not achieved, a second Congress shall take place 24 hours after the first, with the same agenda.

ARTICLE 23. DECISIONS OF THE CONGRESS

1. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a proposal or motion shall be passed if supported by a simple majority of the valid votes cast.
2. Spoiled or blank voting slips or any other forms of abstentions are disregarded in calculating the majority.
3. A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count save in case of election which shall be carried out by secret ballot or by acclamation as stipulated in Article 24. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a proposal or motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in alphabetical order.

ARTICLE 24. ELECTIONS

1. The election of office-bearers at the Congress shall be by secret ballot, except where a candidate has no opponent for the seat he may be elected by acclamation. No voting by letter or proxy is permitted.
2. The President of AFC shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) majority votes recorded on the first ballot. In subsequent ballots, a simple majority of the votes recorded is necessary. From the second ballot (if required) onwards, and in the event of more than two candidates, the one obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated after each ballot until only two candidates remain.
3. The election for the position of FIFA Vice President, FIFA Executive Committee members, AFC Vice President and AFC Executive Committee members shall be decided in a first ballot by a simple majority. If, in the first ballot no candidate obtains the simple majority of the votes cast, a second ballot takes place after the elimination of the candidate who has obtained the least number of votes in the first ballot; and this procedure shall continue until the required numbers of candidates have been elected.

ARTICLE 25. ORDINARY CONGRESS

1. The Ordinary Congress shall be held every two years.
2. The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date. Notice of the Ordinary Congress shall be posted to all Member Associations under registered cover not later than ninety (90) days before the scheduled date of the Congress unless decided otherwise by the Executive Committee.

3. The General Secretary shall, not later than thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress, mail to the Member Associations by registered cover the following:
 - a) the agenda of the Congress;
 - b) the report of the General Secretary;
 - c) the Financial Statements and the Auditor's report;
 - d) the names of the candidates for election;
 - e) proposals for amendments and/or alterations to the Statutes, if any;
 - f) any other proposal submitted by Member Associations or the Executive Committee for which due notice has been given.

ARTICLE 26. ORDINARY CONGRESS AGENDA

1. The Agenda of the Congress shall comprise the following:
 - a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes;
 - b) the approval of the Congress Agenda;
 - c) an address by the President;
 - d) the appointment of three (3) members to check the official Minutes;
 - e) the appointment of three (3) scrutineers to check the voting;
 - f) suspension or expulsion of a Member Association (if applicable);
 - g) dismissal of a person or body (if applicable);
 - h) the approval of the Minutes of the preceding Congress;
 - i) the General Secretary's report for the period preceding Congress;
 - j) the reports of the Committees and bodies;
 - k) the submission for approval of the Statement of Accounts and the Auditor's Reports;
 - l) the approval of the budget (if applicable);
 - m) admission for membership (if applicable);

- n) the proposals for amendments and alterations to the Statutes (if applicable);
- o) consideration of proposals (if any) submitted by Member Associations or the Executive Committee in accordance with these Statutes;
- p) appointment of External Auditors (if applicable);
- q) to confer Honorary Titles if any;
- r) the election of the (as applicable):
 - i) President;
 - ii) FIFA Vice President;
 - iii) FIFA Executive Committee members;
 - iv) AFC Female Vice President;
 - v) AFC Vice Presidents (4);
 - vi) 3 AFC Female Executive Committee;
 - vii) 12 AFC Executive Committee members.

ARTICLE 27. EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

1. An Extraordinary Congress may be convened:
 - a) by the Executive Committee whenever deemed necessary;
 - b) in the event the office of the President falls vacant for more than one (1) year of his election;
 - c) upon a written request by at least one third (1/3) of the Member Associations within sixty (60) days of the receipt of the written request.
2. The date and venue shall be determined by the Executive Committee and notified to the Member Associations at least thirty (30) days before the Extraordinary Congress.
3. 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 Member Associations, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Members.
4. The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress may not be altered. Extraordinary Congress shall discuss only the items for which it has been convened.

5. Extraordinary Congress shall be conducted in the same manner as the Ordinary Congress.

ARTICLE 28. AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE STATUTES AND THE STANDING ORDER OF THE CONGRESS

1. Only the Congress may amend or alter the Statutes and the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress.
2. Proposals to amend or alter the Statutes may either be submitted by a Member Association and seconded by two (2) others or by the Executive Committee. Proposals to amend the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress may be submitted by a Member Association or by the Executive Committee. The proposals submitted shall be in writing with a brief explanation.
3. All amendments and alterations to the Statutes shall only be adopted with the approval of three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast by the Member Associations present.
4. All amendment to the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress shall be adopted only with the approval of a simple majority of the votes cast by the Member Associations present.

ARTICLE 29. 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 30. EFFECTIVE DATES OF DECISIONS

Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect thirty (30) days after the close of the Congress, unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

ARTICLE 31. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of up to 24 members elected from among the candidates nominated by the Member Associations for the following positions:
 - a) the President;
 - b) FIFA Vice President;

- c) one (1) female Vice President;
 - d) four (4) Vice Presidents;
 - e) three (3) further representatives to the FIFA Executive Committee; (in addition to the FIFA Vice President), one of whom shall be the AFC President if the AFC President is not otherwise a FIFA Vice President;
 - f) three (3) female members;
 - g) twelve (12) members.
2. The President may be elected from any zone without affecting the quota of the zone from which he originates.
 - 2b. The Congress shall elect the four (4) AFC Vice Presidents one from each zone.
 3. There shall be four (4) seats for female members, one from each zone commencing in 2009, and one of whom shall be elected as Vice President and the remaining three shall be elected as members of the Executive Committee.
 4. The members of the Executive Committee, excluding the President, shall be elected in accordance with the four zones as follows:

WEST ASIA	6 SEATS
SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA	6 SEATS
ASEAN	6 SEATS
EAST ASIA	5 SEATS

5. The Congress shall elect the representatives from amongst the nominated candidates from each zone in accordance with Article 31.4 above.
6. Subject to Art 31.1 (e), the Congress shall elect the representatives to the FIFA Executive Committee from any zone without limiting the number from any zone. The candidate or candidates elected to the FIFA Executive Committee as stipulated above, shall be included in the quota of the respective zone.
7. Members of the Executive Committee shall serve the term of four (4) years and are eligible for re-election. A member of the Executive Committee may not at the same time be a member of any of the Judicial Bodies.

8. No person shall be elected to the office of President for more than three terms (12 years).
9. Every candidate nominated to the Executive Committee, including the President, shall be under the age of seventy (70) as at the date of the election. Every candidate nominated is required to submit the relevant documents to the Secretariat for verification.
10. Each candidate nominated to the Executive Committee for election must be by name and shall be proposed by his National Association in the prescribed forms and shall be submitted to reach the General Secretariat not later than sixty (60) days before the date of the Congress.
11. A Member Association may propose only one (1) candidate for each position in the Executive Committee. No Member Association shall be eligible to be represented by more than one (1) member in the Executive Committee.
12. All candidates must be persons who have served football in various capacities at club, regional or national level and citizens of the country represented by their National Association.
13. The General Secretariat shall notify the Member Associations of the names of proposed candidates at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress.
14. The Senior Vice President shall be appointed by the Executive Committee upon the proposal of the President from amongst the elected Vice Presidents. In the absence of an appointment, the longest-serving Vice President shall be deemed to be the Senior Vice President.
15. If the President ceases to carry out or is prevented from performing his duties the Senior Vice President shall deputise until the next Congress subject to the provisions of Article 27.1(b).
16. If a position should become vacant, the Executive Committee, upon the proposal of the President, shall fill that position until the next Ordinary Congress or Extraordinary Congress (if applicable), when a replacement will be elected for the remaining term of mandate. For the avoidance of doubt, the individual who fills that vacancy shall not have the right to vote.

ARTICLE 32. POWERS AND DUTIES

1. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to take decisions on all matters, which are not exclusive to the Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes, including the release of the funds of the AFC towards the fulfillment of its objectives.

2. The duties of the Executive Committee are as follows:
- a) to carry out the objectives of the AFC;
 - b) to prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of the AFC;
 - c) to ensure that the Statutes are applied, and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
 - d) to approve regulations stipulating how the AFC shall be organised internally;
 - e) to formulate the Rules, Regulations, Standing Orders and Instructions of the AFC;
 - f) to appoint the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and members of the Standing Committees;
 - g) to appoint the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and members of the judicial bodies;
 - h) to set up Ad-Hoc Committees if necessary at any time;
 - i) to approve and submit to the Congress the following:
 - i) the reports of the General Secretary and the various Committees and bodies;
 - ii) the Statement of Accounts and the Auditor's Report;
 - iii) the budget;
 - iv) all proposals for amendments and alterations to the Statutes;
 - v) the appointment of the External Auditors;
 - vi) other proposals submitted by the Executive Committee members in accordance with these Statutes.
 - j) to appoint and dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President;
 - k) to relieve a person of his duties in accordance with Article 40.9;
 - l) to provisionally dismiss a person or body or provisionally suspend a Member Association until the next Congress;
 - m) may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of the AFC or third parties.

ARTICLE 33. MEETINGS

1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least two (2) times a year.
2. The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If 50% of the Executive Committee members request a meeting or if the President deems it necessary, the President shall convene it within 21 days.
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 six (6) weeks before the meeting. The agenda must be sent out to the members of the Executive Committee at least four (4) weeks before the meeting.
4. The General Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Executive Committee in a consultative role.
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. Any member of the Executive Committee who is absent without a properly accepted apology for three (3) consecutive meetings or any six (6) meetings during their term shall be provisionally suspended from the Executive Committee. A decision shall then be made by the Congress, at the next Congress, which shall be final.
7. If circumstances so require, any member of the Executive Committee may, subject to the agreement of the President and General Secretary, attend a meeting of the Executive Committee by telephone conference, video conference or any other similar method.

ARTICLE 34. DECISIONS

1. The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be a simple majority of its members.
2. The Executive Committee shall reach decisions by a simple majority of the votes cast by the members present. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote. Voting by proxy or 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.
6. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Executive Committee may be taken without a meeting if a majority of the members of the Executive Committee consent thereto in writing, and the written consents are filed with the minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee. The resolution in writing, signed by a majority of the Executive Committee members for the time being entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the committee, shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Executive Committee duly convened and held. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form, each signed by one or more members. The expressions “in writing” or “signed” include approval by legible confirmed transmission by email, facsimile, or other forms of electronic communication.

ARTICLE 35. 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.
2. The motion for dismissal must be accompanied by written reasons. It will be sent to the Member Associations of the AFC along with the agenda.
3. The person or body in question has the right to speak in his or its own defense.
4. The Congress shall reach a decision by means of secret ballot. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds of the valid votes in favor of the motion is required.
5. The person or body dismissed (provisionally) must be relieved of his or its functions with immediate effect.

ARTICLE 36. THE PRESIDENT

1. The President shall be the legal representative of the AFC.
2. He shall be 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 the AFC in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
- c) supervising the work of the General Secretariat;
- d) relations between the AFC and its Members, FIFA, political bodies and other organisations;
- e) only the President may propose the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary;
- f) The President shall preside at the Congress, the Extraordinary Congress, the Executive Committee meetings and other Committee meetings of which he is Chairman;
- g) The President shall be ex-officio member in all Standing Committees without the right to vote;
- h) The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee and the Emergency Committee and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote;
- i) If the President is absent or unavailable, the Senior Vice President available shall deputise;
- j) Any additional powers of the President shall be contained in the internal organisation regulations of the AFC.

ARTICLE 37. CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE AFC PRESIDENT

1. The President shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four years. His mandate shall begin after the end of the Congress which has elected him. A President may be re-elected subject to the provision of Article 31.8.
2. Each nomination for candidacy for the office of the AFC President shall be proposed by any two (2) Member Associations in the prescribed forms and shall be submitted to reach the General Secretariat not later than sixty (60) days before the date of the Congress.
3. The General Secretariat shall notify the Member Associations of the names of proposed candidates for the office of the AFC President at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress.

ARTICLE 38. REPRESENTATION AND SIGNATURE

The President represents the AFC legally and is entitled to sign for the AFC in accordance with the Statutes and Regulations. The Executive Committee may set up internal organisation regulations regarding the joint signature of officers, in particular, in case of the President's absence and all important business of the AFC.

ARTICLE 39. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

1. The Emergency Committee shall deal with all matters requiring immediate settlement between two meetings of the Executive Committee. The Emergency Committee shall consist of:
 - a) the President;
 - b) the five AFC Vice Presidents.
2. The President shall convene the Emergency Committee meetings. The procedure for taking action without a meeting set out under Article 34 paragraph 6 applies to the Emergency Committee. 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 Senior 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 zone as the member who is unable to attend or has a conflict of interests.
6. If circumstances so require, any member of the Emergency Committee may, subject to the agreement of the President and General Secretary, attend a meeting of the Emergency Committee by telephone conference, video conference or any other similar method.

ARTICLE 40. STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The Standing Committees of AFC are:
 - a) Finance Committee

- b) Internal Audit Committee
 - c) Competitions Committee
 - d) Technical Committee
 - e) Referees Committee
 - f) Women's Committee
 - g) Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee
 - h) Social Responsibility Committee
 - i) Legal Committee
 - j) Medical Committee
 - k) Marketing Committee
 - l) Development Committee
2. The Standing Committees shall comprise the Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and a minimum of three (3) members and maximum of nine (9) members. Only members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed as Chairmen of the Standing Committees with the exception of the Internal Audit Committee Chairman, 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 Member Associations of AFC or the President of AFC. The term of office of the Standing Committees is four years. Members may be reappointed and may also be relieved of their duties at any time in accordance with Article 40.9. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy on a Standing Committee shall have the right to vote.
 3. Each chairman shall conduct business in compliance with these Statutes and the relevant organisation regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee.
 4. The dates and the agenda of meetings of each Standing Committee shall be fixed by the General Secretariat in consultation with the relevant chairman.
 5. Any decisions and/or policies made by the Standing Committee must be either in accordance with a delegation from the Executive Committee or subsequently ratified by the Executive Committee, in order to take effect.
 6. The quorum for the Standing Committee meetings shall not be less than half (1/2) the number that constitutes that Standing Committee.

7. The procedure for taking action without a meeting set out under Article 34 paragraph 6 shall apply to the Standing Committees.
8. A member of the Standing Committee shall not take part in the deliberation of any matter or point of issue involving the Member Association with which he is associated, or in any in which a conflict of interest exists.
9. Any member of the Standing Committees who is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings or any five (5) meetings during their term without a properly accepted apology is automatically suspended from the said committee. A decision shall then be made by the Executive Committee whether or not to dismiss the member, which shall be final.
10. Each Standing Committee may, if necessary, set up a bureau and/or sub-committee from among its members to settle urgent or specialised matters.
11. Each Standing Committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Committee.
12. If circumstances so require, any member of a Standing Committee may, subject to the agreement of that Committee's Chairman and the General Secretary, attend a meeting of that Committee by telephone conference, video conference or any other similar method.

ARTICLE 41. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee shall:

- monitor the financial administration of the AFC and advise the Executive Committee on financial matters and asset management;
- analyse the AFC budget and financial statements prepared by the General Secretary for submission to the Executive Committee and the Congress for approval.

ARTICLE 42. INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Internal Audit Committee shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting, review the External Auditors' report at the request of the Executive Committee, assess and provide recommendations on the AFC's internal control systems and risk management policies.

ARTICLE 43. COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

Competitions Committee shall organise and manage AFC competitions and matches including making decisions on any matters related to these competitions and matches in accordance with these Statutes and relevant Regulations.

ARTICLE 44. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Technical Committee shall be responsible for continuing educational aspects of the game of Football.

ARTICLE 45. REFEREES COMMITTEE

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 for recommendation to FIFA;
- appoint the referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, referee assessors and referee instructors for Football matches in competitions organised by the AFC;
- approve a panel of AFC Elite Referees and Assistant Referees and Referee Instructors on a yearly basis.

ARTICLE 46. WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The Women's Committee shall deal with all matters related to women's football in accordance with these Statutes and relevant Regulations.

ARTICLE 47. FUTSAL AND BEACH SOCCER COMMITTEE

The Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee shall deal with all matters related to Futsal and Beach Soccer in accordance with these Statutes and relevant Regulations.

ARTICLE 48. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE

The Social Responsibility Committee shall ensure that AFC's social responsibilities are discharged consistent with AFC's policies and objectives and to be a source of unity to the football family.

ARTICLE 49. LEGAL COMMITTEE

The Legal Committee shall:

- as requested by the Executive Committee, the President, the General Secretary or on the Legal Committee's own initiative, consider, and advise on the management of legal issues that relate to and might reasonably affect the interests of the AFC, in respect of the game of Football, and the Statutes, Rules and Regulations of the AFC or its Member Associations;
- report to the Executive Committee on any legal issue identified by the Committee as a matter requiring the attention of the Executive Committee, the Congress or other AFC bodies which has not been dealt with by such competent bodies;
- assist the Executive Committee, the President or the General Secretary, when so required, to obtain legal advice or other legal services from the AFC's legal advisers and assist in the review of any legal advice provided to the Confederation.

ARTICLE 50. MEDICAL COMMITTEE

The Medical Committee shall deal with all medical aspects of Football, including without limitation anti doping matters.

ARTICLE 51. MARKETING COMMITTEE

The Marketing Committee shall advise the Executive Committee on the AFC marketing strategies and policies as well as in negotiating, drafting, and implementing contracts between the AFC and its various marketing partners.

ARTICLE 52. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Development Committee shall be responsible for and supervise the implementation of development programs.

ARTICLE 53. AD-HOC COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee may create Ad-Hoc Committees for special duties and a limited period of time. The Executive Committee shall decide the composition, term of office and appoint a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and the members. The duties and function of the Committee are defined in special regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee. An Ad-Hoc Committee shall report directly to Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 54. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

The General Secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of the AFC under the direction of the General Secretary. The members of the General Secretariat are bound by the internal organisational regulations of the AFC and must fulfill the given tasks in the best manner.

ARTICLE 55. THE GENERAL SECRETARY

1. The General Secretary shall be the Chief Executive of the General Secretariat and shall work under the direction of the Executive Committee.
2. He shall be appointed on the basis of an agreement governed by private law and shall have the necessary professional qualifications.
3. The General Secretary shall:
 - a) implement decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
 - b) be responsible for the administration of the General Secretariat;
 - c) be responsible for the appointment and discipline of all staff of the General Secretariat;
 - d) assist and participate in the Congress, Executive Committee and Committee meetings;
 - e) be responsible for the Minutes of all meetings;
 - f) be responsible for all publications of the AFC;
 - g) be responsible for all correspondence of the AFC;
 - h) liaise with FIFA, confederations and any other organisation in the promotion of the objects of the AFC;
 - i) manage and keep the accounts of the AFC properly;
 - j) propose managerial staff appointments to the President;
 - k) sign decisions on behalf of any AFC Committee, provided that no other ruling exists in the relevant regulations.
4. In the absence of the General Secretary an Acting General Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

5. The General Secretary shall attend all meetings of the AFC as an ex-officio official without the right to vote.
6. The General Secretary shall not be a Congress delegate or a member of any body of the AFC.

ARTICLE 56. JUDICIAL BODIES

1. The following judicial bodies of the AFC may be established:
 - a) the Disciplinary Committee;
 - b) the Appeals Committee;
 - c) the Ethics Committee.
2. The responsibilities and functions of these bodies shall be stipulated in the Disciplinary Code of AFC and the Code of Ethics of AFC.
3. The decision-making powers of other committees remain unaffected.
4. The members of the judicial bodies may not belong to any other body of the AFC at the same time.

ARTICLE 57. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and the number of members deemed necessary by the Executive Committee for the Disciplinary Committee to function properly. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman shall have legal qualifications. The Members shall have legal qualifications or related experience.
2. The Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the Disciplinary Code of AFC on Member Associations, Officials, Clubs and Players.
3. These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and the Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of a Member.

ARTICLE 58. APPEALS COMMITTEE

1. The Appeals Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and the number of members deemed necessary by the Executive Committee for the Appeals Committee to function properly. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman shall have legal qualifications. The Members shall have legal qualifications or related experience.

2. The Appeals Committee shall have jurisdiction to hear Appeals against decisions of the Disciplinary Committee that are not declared final under the Disciplinary Code, and decisions under the Code of Ethics.

ARTICLE 59. SANCTIONS

The AFC may impose the following sanctions for any violation of its Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Standing Orders by its Member Associations, Clubs, Officials and Players:

1. for natural and legal persons:
 - a) warning;
 - b) reprimand;
 - c) fine;
 - d) return of awards;
 - e) confiscation.
2. for natural persons:
 - a) caution;
 - b) expulsion;
 - c) match suspension;
 - d) ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
 - e) ban from entering the stadium;
 - f) ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
 - g) social work.
3. for legal persons:
 - a) transfer ban;
 - b) playing match without spectators;

- c) playing a match on neutral territory;
- d) ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- e) annulment of the result of the match;
- f) exclusion from a competition;
- g) defeat by forfeit;
- h) deduction of points;
- i) relegation to a lower division.

ARTICLE 60. DISPUTES

1. Member Associations, Clubs, Officials or Players shall not refer disputes with FIFA, the AFC or Member Associations, Clubs, Leagues, Officials, Players, licensed match agents and players' agents to courts of law but, after exhausting all previous stages of appeal available at the AFC, FIFA, Member Associations or League level, may submit such disputes to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).
2. In conformity with Article 60.1, Member Associations and Clubs shall provide appropriate clause/clauses in their Statutes to restrain their officials and players from referring their disputes to ordinary courts.
3. Any violation of this Article shall be sanctioned in accordance with these Statutes.

ARTICLE 61. COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORTS

1. AFC recognizes the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland) to resolve disputes between the AFC and the other confederations, Members, 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. AFC Statutes, Codes, Rules, Regulations, Directives and Decisions as well as the law of Malaysia shall be applied where relevant.
3. Recourse may only be made to CAS after all other internal channels have been exhausted.

4. All decisions taken by CAS shall be deemed to be final and binding upon all parties.

ARTICLE 62. JURISDICTION OF CAS AS AN ORDINARY COURT OF ARBITRATION

CAS shall have jurisdiction, to the exclusion of any ordinary court or any other court of arbitration, to deal with the following disputes in its capacity as an ordinary court of arbitration:

- a) Disputes between the AFC and Member Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials;
- b) Disputes between Member Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials.

ARTICLE 63. JURISDICTION OF CAS AS AN APPEALS ARBITRATION BODY

1. As Appeals Arbitration Body, CAS shall be entitled to hear appeals against final decisions passed by the AFC and against decisions passed by Member Associations or Leagues.
2. The appeal shall be lodged with CAS within 21 days of notification of the decision in question.
3. The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect. The appropriate AFC bodies, or alternatively, CAS may order the appeal to have a suspensive effect.
4. CAS, however, does not deal with appeals arising from:
 - a) violation of the Laws of the Game;
 - b) suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months (with the exception of doping decision);
 - c) decisions against which an appeal to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognized under the rules of the Member Association may be made.
5. Only parties directly affected by a decision may appeal to CAS. However, where doping-related decisions are concerned, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and FIFA may appeal to CAS in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of these organizations.

ARTICLE 64. FINANCES

1. The financial period of the AFC shall be one (1) year and shall commence on 1st January of each year.
2. The revenue and expenses of the AFC shall be responsibly managed, including where appropriate the creation of reserves.
3. The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of the AFC with its subsidiaries as of 31 December every year.

ARTICLE 65. REVENUE

The revenue of the AFC arises specifically from:

- a) Member Associations' annual subscriptions;
- b) receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which the AFC is entitled;
- c) fines imposed by the authorised bodies;
- d) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by the AFC.

ARTICLE 66. EXPENSES

AFC 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 the AFC.

ARTICLE 67. EXTERNAL AUDITORS

1. The Internal Audit Committee shall recommend a firm of independent External Auditors for a Term of four (4) years for approval by the Congress.
2. The External Auditors shall examine and certify the accounts before the same is presented to the Executive Committee and the Congress.

3. The External Auditor's Report shall be submitted to the Executive Committee, Congress and the Internal Audit Committee.

ARTICLE 68. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

1. Each Member Association shall pay a standard annual subscription due by 1st January of each calendar year. The annual subscription for new Member Associations, including the Provisional and Associate 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 annual subscription every two years on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. It shall be the same for every Member Association and amount to no more than 500 USD.

ARTICLE 69. SETTLEMENT

AFC may debit any Member's accounts to settle claims.

ARTICLE 70. LEVIES

Every Member Association shall pay a levy to the AFC in respect of international "A" men's matches. Matches played as part of the Olympic Men's Football Tournaments shall also be subject to the levy. The levy shall be paid by hosting Member Association whether the match is played in the country of the Member Association or otherwise.

ARTICLE 71. COMPETITIONS

1. AFC shall have the sole jurisdiction to organise or sanction international competitions in Asia in which Member Associations and/or their clubs participate. FIFA competitions shall not be affected by this Article.
2. AFC organises and coordinates the following official competitions held within Asia:
 - a) for representative teams:
 - i) FIFA World Cup Qualification for Asia;
 - ii) Olympic Games Qualification for Asia;
 - iii) AFC Asian Cup;
 - iv) AFC Challenge Cup;
 - v) AFC Under 22 Championship;

- vi) AFC Under 19 Championship;
- vii) AFC Under 16 Championship;
- viii) AFC Women's Championship;
- ix) AFC Women's Challenge Cup;
- x) AFC Women's U19 Championship;
- xi) AFC Women's U16 Championship;
- xii) AFC Beach Soccer Championship;
- xiii) AFC Futsal Championship.

b) for club teams

- i) AFC Champions League;
- ii) AFC Cup;
- iii) AFC President's Cup;
- iv) AFC Women's Club Championship;
- v) AFC Futsal Club Championship.

3. The Executive Committee may delegate to AFC's Member Associations the authority to organise competitions.
4. The Executive Committee of AFC shall set up regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of AFC competitions.
5. By the act of entering its team to a competitions organised by the AFC, each Member Association and/or Club affiliated to a Member Association agrees to comply with the Statutes, Rules and Regulations, Directives and Decisions of AFC and FIFA, and their bodies.
6. The admission to an AFC competition of a Member Association or Club directly or indirectly involved in any activity aimed at arranging or influencing the outcome of a match at national or international level can be refused with immediate effect, without prejudice to any possible disciplinary measures.

ARTICLE 72. CLUBS LICENSING

The Executive Committee shall define a club licensing system governing:

- a) The minimum criteria to be fulfilled by clubs in order to be admitted to AFC competitions;
- b) The licensing process (including the minimum requirements for the licensing bodies);
- c) The minimum requirements to be observed by the licensors.

ARTICLE 73. RIGHTS

1. AFC and its Member Associations are respectively 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 the AFC rights are utilised and draw up special regulations to this end. The Executive Committee shall alone decide whether the AFC rights shall be utilised exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.

ARTICLE 74. AUTHORISATION

AFC and its Member Associations 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.

ARTICLE 75. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

1. The authorisation and organisation of international matches and competitions between National Association teams and between Leagues and/or Club teams in Asia shall be in accordance with FIFA Statutes and Regulations.
2. The Executive Committee shall compile an AFC Competitions Calendar that shall be binding upon Members and Leagues.
3. AFC is bound to comply with the International match calendar compiled by FIFA.

ARTICLE 76. APPROVAL

Member Associations cannot belong to another confederation or participate in competitions on the territory of another confederation without the authorisation of the AFC and the other confederation and of FIFA.

ARTICLE 77. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

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

ARTICLE 78. DISSOLUTION

AFC may be dissolved by a resolution to that effect passed by not less than three-fourths (3/4) of the Member Associations eligible to vote.

Upon the dissolution of the AFC, all its funds and assets shall be entrusted to the appropriate authority of the country of the General Secretariat until such time the AFC is re-established.

ARTICLE 79. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Article 79.1 has been removed.

2. The provisions in this Article 79.2 shall cover the elections of the Female Vice President and the three Female members of the Executive Committee until the 26th AFC Congress in 2015 at which time the term provided in Article 31.7 shall apply.
 - 2.1 The Female Vice President and the two Female members of the Executive Committee elected at the AFC 23rd Congress in 2009 shall serve a four (4) year term (2009-2013).
 - 2.2 One Female member of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the AFC 24th Congress in 2011 to serve a four (4) year term. (2011-2015).
 - 2.3 The Female Vice President and the two Female members elected at the 25th AFC Congress in 2013 shall serve a two (2) year term (2013-2015).
3. The provisions in this Article 79.3 shall cover the elections of the three (3) FIFA Executive Committee positions referenced in Article 31.1.e at the AFC Congress in 2015 in the event that the person elected as AFC President is already a member of the FIFA Executive Committee for the term 2013-2017.

3.1 The person elected as AFC President at the AFC Congress in 2015 shall no longer exercise his official function in the FIFA Executive Committee position for the term 2013-2017. Instead, he shall automatically succeed to one of the two (2) FIFA Executive Committee positions which are to be elected in 2015 for a four (4) year term 2015-2019, except in the event that he is also elected as FIFA Vice President for the term 2015-2019.

3.2 An election shall be held for the remaining FIFA Executive Committee positions for the term 2015-2019. The candidate with the highest number of votes who is not elected to such positions shall be deemed to be elected to fill the FIFA Executive Committee position (2013-2017) for the remaining two (2) years, being the period 2015-2017.

ARTICLE 80. ADMINISTRATION OF PROPERTY

- 1) The immovable property of the AFC shall be registered in the name of the AFC. The AFC Executive Committee shall appoint three (3) officers comprising of the President, one of the Vice Presidents or the Senior Vice President and the General Secretary as the Properties Administration Officers pursuant to section 9(b) of the Societies Act 1966, whose appointments are authenticated by a certificate of the Registrar of Societies. They will serve in the capacity for the duration of their term of office. They will automatically cease to hold that position when their term of office ends.
- 2) They are not empowered to sell, mortgage, or transfer the property of the AFC unless given the authority to do so by Congress.
- 3) In the event that a post falls vacant, the Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt any other member of the AFC to fill the vacancy until the next Congress.

ARTICLE 81. ADOPTION OF STATUTES

These Statutes were adopted by the AFC Ordinary Congress on 3 May 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They supersede all previous texts and come into force on 2 June 2013 as laid down in Article 30.

On behalf of the AFC Ordinary Congress 2013

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
President

Dato' Alex Soosay
General Secretary

Regulations Governing the Application of the AFC Statutes

ARTICLE 1. APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION TO AFC

1. Any National Association wishing to become affiliated to the AFC shall apply to the AFC. The Executive Committee of the AFC may consider granting “Provisional” or “Associate” Membership.
2. The Executive Committee may grant “Provisional” Membership to the applicant National Association for a period of at least two (2) years. Once the two (2) years have elapsed, the Member Association concerned shall supply the AFC with a detailed report on its organisation and activities.
3. Based on this report and the documents mentioned in Article 8.8 of the AFC Statutes, the AFC Executive Committee shall decide whether to recommend the National Association concerned to the Congress for “Ordinary” Membership.
4. The subsequent AFC Congress shall decide whether to grant “Ordinary” Membership.

ARTICLE 2. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

1. International football matches recognised by the AFC shall be those between two National Associations affiliated to the AFC and/or FIFA for which each National Association fields a representative national team.
2. An international “A” match shall be a match that has been arranged between two National Associations affiliated to the AFC and/or FIFA and for which both National Associations field their first national representative teams.
3. The terms used to define a match should be those recognised as giving an appropriate political and geographical description of the countries or territories within the National Associations whose teams are involved in the match and over which countries or territories they have sole control and jurisdiction.
4. If a National Association allows one of its leagues to choose a team which bears the name of its country, the match shall be considered an international match as described in the aforementioned Article 2(1).

ARTICLE 3. INTERCLUB, INTERLEAGUE MATCHES

1. An interclub match shall be a match played between two clubs. Although the clubs may belong to different National Associations, such a match shall not be recognised as an international match (Article 2(1)).

2. An inter-league match shall be a match played between two leagues. Although the leagues may belong to different National Associations, such a match shall not be recognised as an international match (Article 2(1)), subject to the provision of Article 2(4) above.

ARTICLE 4. NOTIFICATION

1. Every international “A” match (Article 2(2)) including friendly matches between teams from within the AFC shall be made known to AFC’s General Secretariat by the Member Association organizing them at least seven (7) days before the matches are held.
2. Every international “A” match (Article 2(2)) including friendly matches involving teams from other confederations shall be made known to AFC’s General Secretariat by the Member Association organising them at least fourteen (14) days before the matches are held.
3. Failure to give notification of a match within this prescribed period shall incur a fine of USD1,000 to be paid to the AFC. Failure to provide any notification whatsoever shall incur a fine of USD2,000. These fines shall be paid within 10 days of receipt of AFC’s decision.

ARTICLE 5. REPORT

1. The Secretary of the Member Association on whose territory the match or the tournament is being played shall, within two (2) days of each match, notify the AFC of the result of the match, the surname and first name of the referee, assistant referees and fourth official who officiated and the surname, first name and status of the players and substitutes of each team, using the official form for this purpose. This form shall be duly filled and signed.
2. If the aforementioned form is sent in belatedly, a fine of USD100 shall be paid to the AFC. If the form is not sent at all, the amount of the fine due shall be USD1,000, payable within ten (10) days of receipt of AFC’s decision. In case of repetition, the amount of the fine may be increased by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 6. REGISTRATION

1. Every international “A” match (cf. Article 2(2)) shall be recorded with its results on an official list kept up to date by AFC.

2. Such a match shall, however, not be registered on the official list of international matches involving two National Associations if either of the National Associations informs the AFC and the other National Association to this effect at least 48 hours before the match takes place. The levy due to the AFC for international “A” matches in accordance with Article 70 of the AFC Statutes must still be paid in such a case.

ARTICLE 7. AUTHORISATION

1. No interclub or interleague matches between teams from different National Associations shall be played without the express authorisation of the National Associations concerned. The Member Associations shall include a provision in their regulations stipulating at what point of time the clubs are required to seek authorisation and in addition the sanctions to be imposed if this rule is breached.
2. A National Association shall inform the National Association concerned of every match which it knows has been arranged and played in their area of jurisdiction and for which permission was either not sought or given.
3. Scratch teams consisting of players not belonging to the same club or National Association shall not be permitted to play clubs or teams representing National Associations unless approval has been granted by the National Associations concerned, the AFC and the opposing team. If the players belong to clubs or Member Associations from different Confederations, the authorisation of FIFA is required.

ARTICLE 8. FINAL COMPETITIONS

1. Final competitions of all AFC tournaments shall be hosted on a rotational basis between two zones, namely the East (which comprises of East & ASEAN) and West (which comprises of South & Central, and West).
2. If a zone that is next in line to host a tournament declines or fails to satisfy the AFC hosting requirements, standards and infrastructure, the Executive Committee shall then choose the other Zone as the replacement Zone to be given the right to host the tournament.

Article 8 shall not apply to the following tournaments:

- i) AFC Asian Cup;
- ii) All Women's Competitions;
- iii) AFC Champions League;
- iv) AFC Cup;

- v) AFC Challenge Cup;
- vi) AFC President's Cup.

ARTICLE 9. TOURNAMENTS

1. All tournaments held in the territory of Member Association involving more than two (2) local or national teams (clubs or representative teams), which belong to different Member Associations must be approved by the AFC. If any of the teams involved belong to different Confederations, the authorisation of FIFA is required.
2. The request for approval shall be submitted by the Member Association in whose country the tournament is planned at least sixty (60) days before the commencement of the Tournament.
3. The request for approval shall be accompanied by a list of the teams who are planning to take part in the tournament and the tournament regulations drawn up by the organising Member Association.
4. If a tournament is played in a territory of a Member Association without prior permission, the Member Association in question shall be fined an amount of at least USD10,000 by AFC and may be subject to more serious sanctions in the event of other violations (such as the participation of a team from a Member Association which has been suspended).
5. Member Associations shall only organise tournaments of this nature once in two (2) years; unless special permission has been obtained from the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 10. LEVIES

1. All international "A" men's matches, matches played as part of the Olympic Men's Football Tournament and interclub matches must have gate receipts except in exceptional cases for which AFC's approval must be sought in advance.
2. The levy to be paid to AFC for each match played between two national "A" men's teams, including matches played in tournaments or in games including football, and matches played as part of the Olympic Men's Football Tournament (cf. Article 70 of the AFC Statutes), shall amount to three percent (3%).
3. The amount shall be based on the gross receipts (tickets sales, advertising rights for television and radio broadcasts, and film and video rights, etc) derived from matches subject to levies.

4. The only deductions that shall be made from the gross income are state or local taxes actually paid (but not bank charges or differences in exchange rates) and any charges for the hire of the stadium. The amount of deductions shall not exceed thirty (30%) percent of the entire gross income.
5. Levies payable to FIFA are governed by Article 10 of the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes.
6. If the two National “A” men’s teams or Olympic Men’s Football teams are from different Confederations (except Asia), the levy payable shall be two percent (2%) to the AFC and half a percent (½%) directly to each of the two Confederations.
7. If only one team is from another Confederation, the levy payable shall be two and a half (2 ½%) to the AFC and half a percent (½%) directly to the Confederation concerned.

ARTICLE 11. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

1. For each match subject to a levy, a detailed statement of account shall be drawn up by the hosting Member Association.
2. This statement shall contain all the requisite figures reflecting the entire income and any taxes or charges deducted there from (cf. Article 10 (3) and (4)).
3. The statement of account and the amount due from the levy shall be sent to the AFC within sixty (60) days of the date the match was held.
4. Failure to conform to these requirements may result in the Member Association being sanctioned in the forms of warning, fine and suspension.

ARTICLE 12. MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION

Whatever the financial outcome of the match, the minimum contribution to be paid to the AFC is USD500 (US Dollars five hundred only).

ARTICLE 13. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Any person receiving remuneration by virtue of a contract from a Member Association or one of its clubs shall not be entitled to accept work in return for remuneration with another National Association at the same time.

ARTICLE 14. MATCH AGENTS AND PLAYERS' AGENTS

1. The employment of agents or intermediaries in the arrangement of matches shall be permitted.
2. Agents or intermediaries who arrange matches between teams from within the AFC must be officially recognised by FIFA.
3. Agents or intermediaries who arrange matches between teams belonging to different confederations must possess a FIFA agent's license.
4. The AFC shall be entitled to intervene to enforce the agreements concluded between agents or intermediaries and teams with which they are contractually bound only in the following cases:
 - (a) if the match or tournament at the source of the dispute involves teams from different Member Associations;
 - (b) if the agent or intermediary in question holds a FIFA licence.
5. Players may use the services of agents to negotiate transfers. Only players' agents in possession of a license issued in accordance with FIFA players' agent regulation may carry out this work.

ARTICLE 15. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FOR ASSOCIATION TEAMS

Player's eligibility to play for representative teams of Member Association teams shall be governed in accordance with FIFA Statutes and Regulations.

ARTICLE 16. PRINCIPLE OF PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

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 Association'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 license 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 Association's body of appeal.
4. Each Member Association is responsible for deciding national issues, which may not be delegated to the Leagues. AFC is responsible for deciding issues involving more than one National Association within the AFC's territory. FIFA is responsible for deciding international issues involving more than one confederation.

ARTICLE 17. LAWS OF THE GAME

1. FIFA shall inform the Member Associations of the amendments and decisions taken by the IFAB with respect to the Laws of the Game.
2. The Member Associations shall be obliged to enforce these amendments and decisions at the latest by 1 July after the IFAB's annual meeting. Exceptions may, however, be made by Member Associations whose football season is still in progress at the time of receipt of the notification.
3. The Member Associations shall be entitled to apply the amendments and decisions as soon as they have been issued by the IFAB.

ARTICLE 18. REFEREES

1. Each referee of an international match (cf. Article 2.1) shall belong to a neutral Member Association unless otherwise previously agreed by the Member Associations concerned.
2. The referee chosen to officiate at an international match shall be a member of the official FIFA list of International Referees.

ARTICLE 19. REPORT

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

ARTICLE 20. REIMBURSEMENT

1. Referees at international matches (cf. Article 2(1)) shall be entitled to:
 - (a) a daily allowance;
 - (b) reimbursement of travel expenses.

The AFC's financial regulations shall determine the amounts, travel category and number of days due for reimbursement to which the referees are entitled.

2. The amount owing to the referees shall be paid to them in convertible currency on the same day as the match by the Member Association which has organised the match.
3. The expenses for hotel, board and laundry incurred by referees of international matches shall be settled by the Member Association organising the match.

ARTICLE 21. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Any matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 22. FINAL PROVISIONS

These regulations were approved by the AFC Ordinary Congress on 3 May 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They supersede all previous Regulations and come into force within thirty (30) days of the date of approval.

On behalf of the AFC Ordinary Congress 2013

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
President

Dato' Alex Soosay
General Secretary

Standing Orders of the Congress of the Asian Football Confederation

ARTICLE 1. CHAIRMAN

1. The President of AFC shall chair the Congress. The Senior Vice President or one of the Vice Presidents (in order of seniority) shall deputise in the absence of the President.
2. The Chairman shall:
 - a) be responsible for the strict application of the Standing Orders;
 - b) open and adjourn the sessions and debates;
 - c) permit delegates to speak;
 - d) conduct the proceedings of the Congress;
 - e) maintain order at the Congress;
 - f) and impose disciplinary measures on the delegates who interfere with the proceedings or are guilty of any misconduct.

ARTICLE 2. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

1. In conducting the business of the Congress, the Chairman shall have the right to apply the following disciplinary measures:
 - i) a call to order;
 - ii) censure;
 - iii) exclusion from one or more sessions.
2. In the case of an appeal, the Congress shall decide immediately and without debate.

ARTICLE 3. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS

1. The General Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes of the Congress. Stenographers may be employed to assist the General Secretary.
2. A number of scrutineers in accordance with Article 26 of the AFC Statutes shall be appointed at the beginning of the Congress to count the votes for and against whenever a vote is taken.

3. A number of members shall be appointed in accordance with Article 26 of the AFC Statutes to check the official minutes of the Congress.
4. Official interpreters shall be appointed to make the translations into the official languages of the Congress.

ARTICLE 4. ORDER OF PROCEDURES

1. Each discussion on the items on the agenda shall be preceded with a statement:
 - a) by the Chairman or the member designated by the Executive Committee for this purpose;
 - b) by the representative of a Committee specially appointed to make a report;
 - c) by the representative of a Member Association responsible for the inclusion of the same in the Agenda.
2. The general discussion shall then be open to the delegates.
3. The right to address the Congress shall be granted in the order in which it is requested. No speaker shall speak unless permission has been obtained. Speakers shall speak from their designated places and the rest shall remain seated.
4. No permission shall be granted to any member to speak a second time unless all those who have obtained permission to speak have done so.

ARTICLE 5. PROPOSALS AND MOTIONS

1. All proposals and amendments shall be submitted in writing. Proposals which are not relevant to the subject under discussion shall be withdrawn from the debate.
2. If a motion for adjournment is proposed, all discussions shall be suspended until a vote has been taken on the motion.
3. A proposal to close the discussion shall be put to vote without debate. If the motion is approved, permission to speak shall be granted only to those members who have requested to do so before the vote was taken.
4. The Chairman shall close the discussion unless the Congress decides otherwise by a simple majority.

ARTICLE 6. VOTING

1. No vote can be taken by secret ballot except as provided for otherwise in the Statutes.

2. All proposals may be decided either by a show of hands, the use of electronic equipment, by a roll call or by acclamation as provided for in these statutes. No one shall be compelled to vote.
3. All proposals without objections shall be adopted.
4. All proposals shall be put to vote in the order in which they are submitted. Every voting Member Association shall have only one proposal.
5. Before each vote, the Chairman or the person designated by him for the purpose shall read aloud the text of the proposal before voting and explain the voting procedure to the Congress.
6. Voting cards shall be visibly held when voting is by a show of hands.
7. Alterations to amendments shall be put to the vote before the amendments proper, and amendments before the main proposal.
8. The Chairman shall verify and announce the results of the voting to the Congress.
9. Silence shall be strictly observed during voting and until the result has been announced by the Chairman. No one may obtain permission to speak during voting and until the result has been announced.

ARTICLE 7. ELECTIONS

1. All elections shall be carried out by secret ballot except in case of election by acclamation as provided for under Article 24.
2. The General Secretary, assisted by the scrutineers, shall conduct the distribution and counting of the ballot papers.
3. The number of ballot papers issued shall be announced by the Chairman before the count.
4. If the number of papers returned is equal to or less than that of the ballot papers issued, the vote shall be valid.
5. If the number of ballot papers exceeds the number issued, the voting shall be declared null and void and another shall be taken immediately.
6. If two or more votes are given in support of one candidate on one ballot paper, only one vote shall be valid. Blank or spoilt ballot papers shall be excluded. The simple majority is based on the number of valid papers returned. The Chairman shall announce the result of each ballot to the Congress.

7. The General Secretary shall put the ballot papers that have been collected and counted into envelopes for this purpose and seal them immediately. The General Secretariat shall keep these envelopes and destroy these one hundred (100) days after the end of the Congress, or such later time as directed by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 8. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

1. All matters not provided for in the Standing Orders shall be resolved by the Executive Committee unless decided otherwise by the Congress.
2. The Standing Orders of the Congress of AFC were approved by the AFC Ordinary Congress on 3 May 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They supersede all previous Standing Orders and come into force within 30 days of the date of approval.

On behalf of the AFC Ordinary Congress 2013

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
President

Dato' Alex Soosay
General Secretary



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